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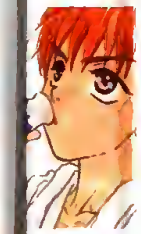

MY HEAVENLY HOCKEY CLUB 4

AI MORINAGA

Ballantine Books

DEL REY

STUDY BUDDIES

Hana doesn't really care that she's flunking out of school, but her friends in the hockey club do. If Hana can't improve her grades, she'll be barred from playing on the team. Luckily, the cute boys of the Grand Hockey Club will do anything to help a teammate in distress!

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My Heavenly Hockey Club

4

Ai Morinaga

Translated and adapted by Athena and Alethea Nibley

Lettered by North Market Street Graphics

BALLANTINE BOOKS • NEW YORK

My Heavenly Hockey Club volume 4 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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Bagel (a male so named because his tail is shaped like a bagel), whom I haven't seen lately, came back and is now shaped like a barrel. I think that, when it comes to animals, the fatter and furrier they are, the cuter they are. If I was an animal, I would be pretty cute, but regrettably, I am a human.

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

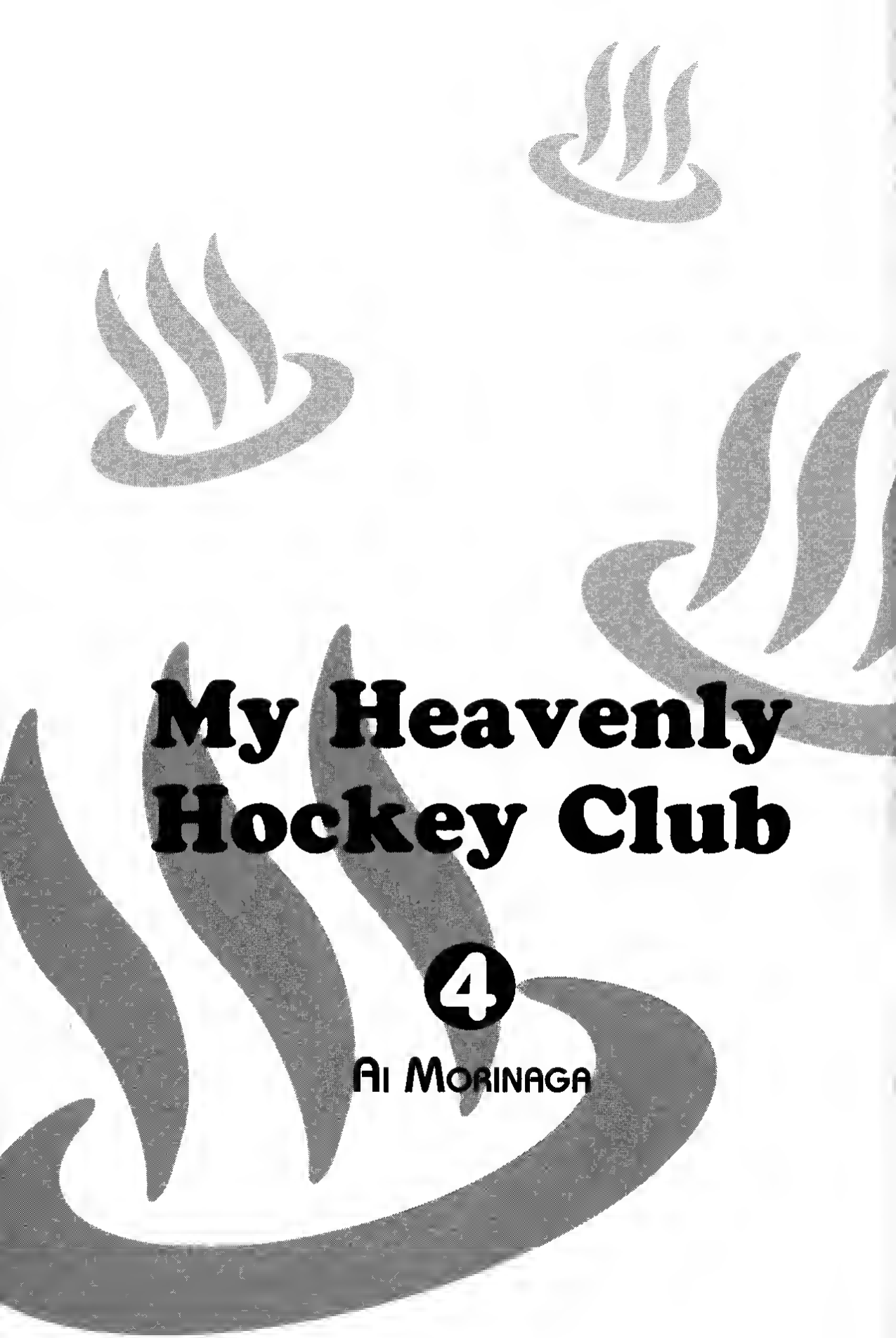
Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.



My Heavenly Hockey Club

4

Ai Morinaga

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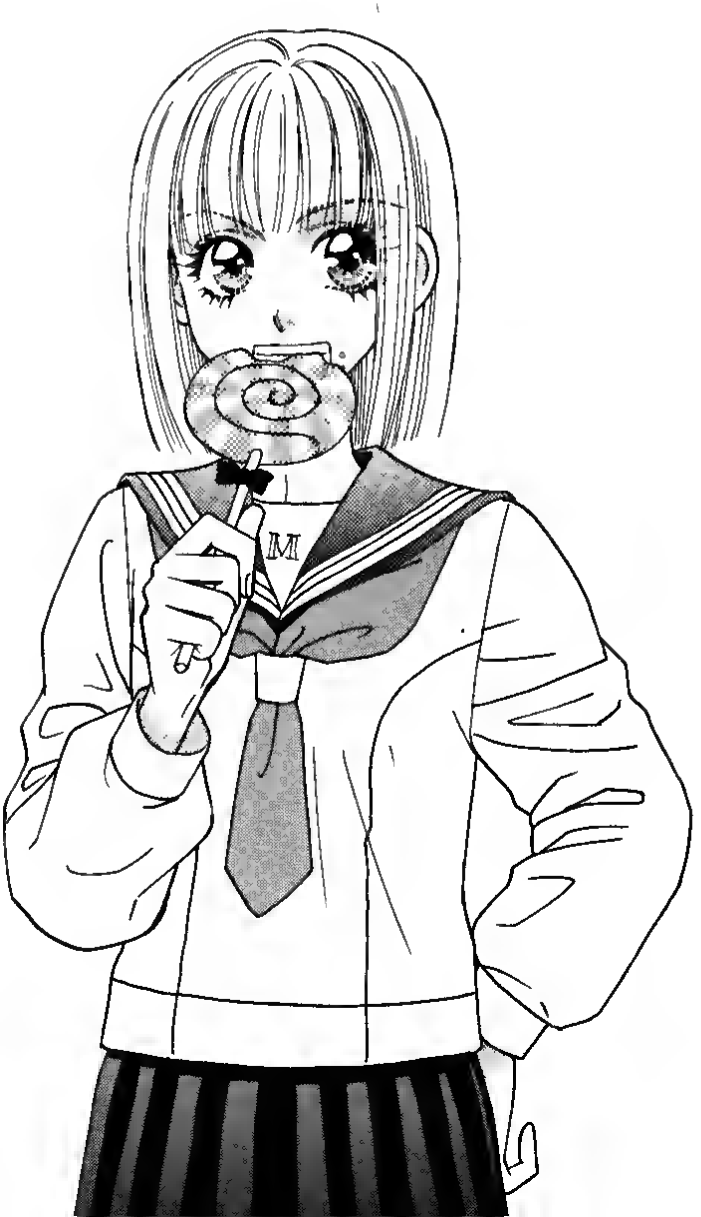
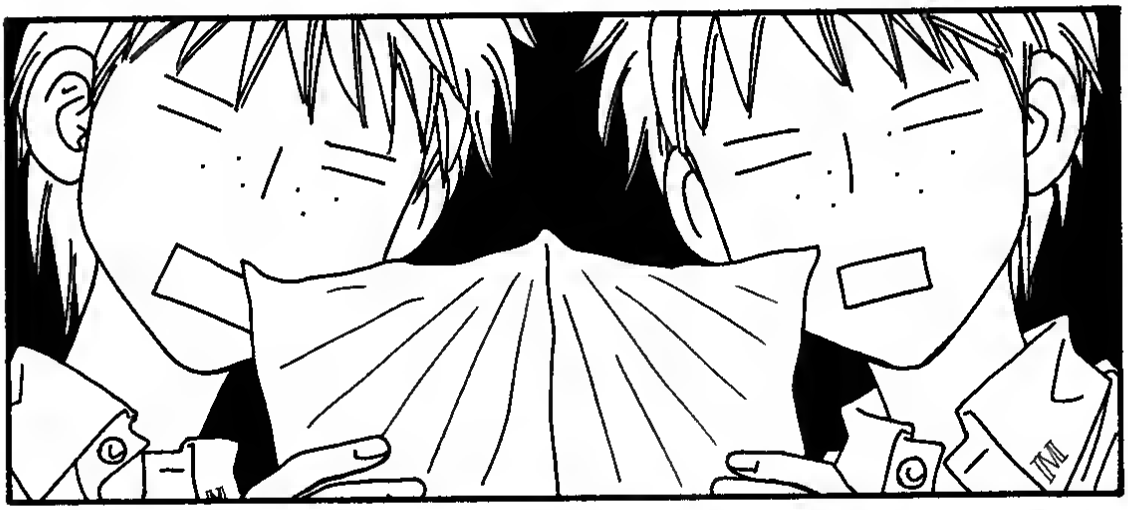
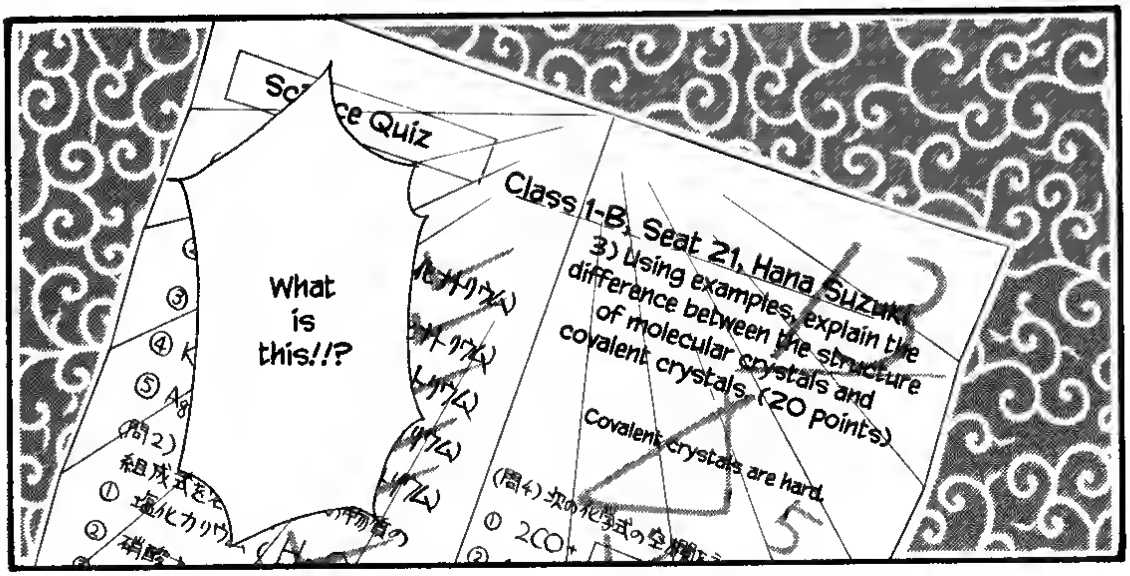
Chapter 13: Exam Study in Hell



Hey, how did you do on the quiz?
All right, I guess.
What? I'm jealous. You're not worried?
I mean, the proficiency tests are at the end of the month. We have to start studying soon.
What are you doing, Hana?
Ah.

AAAAAAAAAAHHH!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
What's this?




Science Quiz
Class 1-B, Seat 21, Hana Suzuki
What is this!!?
3) Using examples, explain the difference between the structure of molecular crystals and covalent crystals. (20 points)
Covalent crystals are hard.
5

How on Earth did you get such an *intensely bad* score?
I'm shocked you even got into this school!
Well, something had to be done about it.
Yeah.
13 points. It's bad luck.
How mean. You didn't have to tell everyone!
A maiden's secret.
Well, I've used up my savings from when I was taking entrance exams, and I've used up all my drive.
If you don't have the raw talent, put forth more effort!
Are you preparing for your lessons and then reviewing them after!?
I'm tired every day from being forced to go to the club!
Are you blaming your own stupidity on me!?
Stop calling me *stupid!*

FLINCH
WHOOMP
Shut up! What's wrong with calling a stupid person stup...
Izumi!
Are you okay!?
Natsuki-sempai...
Hana-chan, even if it was a fluke, you did get into this school, so you can do it if you try.
Come on, Takashi.
That's not funny.
Repeating a grade...
So? She can just go through first year again.
But she's sure in trouble.
If she keeps this up, she might not be able to recover after midterms.

I don't really care.
Yeah, well, if it happens, it happens.
If your grades are too bad, they make you stop going to club activities.
Eh!?
But we really do need to do something.
No!!
Hey, Hana. Starting today, you're studying.
Eeehhh~~?
It's almost time for the proficiency tests. It's perfect timing.
For now, she has a goal.
If we all work together, we can do it!
Hey, Takashi. You, too. Got it?
Well, it does make me uncomfortable to have a stupid person so nearby.
Can't be helped.

First of all, try this quiz again.
Ergh...
むー...
If you get red marks at midterms and finals, you'll have to take supplementary lessons—you'll have even less time to sleep.
You haven't even tried yet—what's with the pessimistic attitude!!?
Eehh? I only have a week. There's no possible way.
ROLLLLLL
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
ONO
Question 1: J-a-L...
WHAP
There's no chemical formula like that!
That's an airline!!
How very brave.
Hana-chan, you're so manly...

Shut up! At least review the problems you missed after the quiz!
I don't know the answer!!
That hurt! You don't have to hit me!
Understand? Your goal is to get an average score!
We'll whip you into shape to make up for all your slacking up to now!!
Step one: You have to look the part.

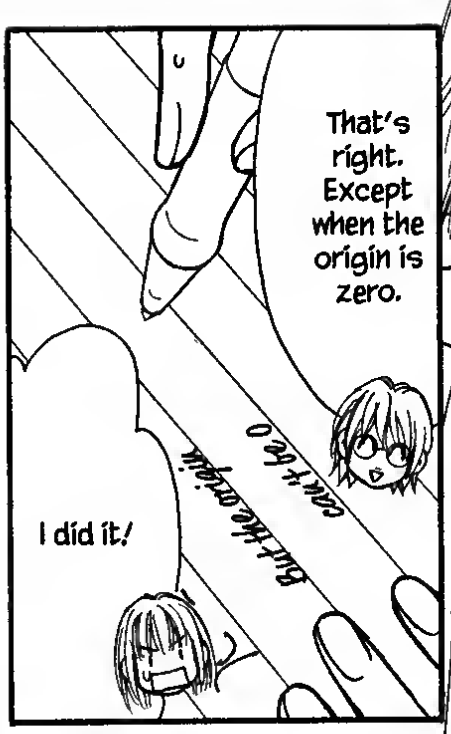
Answer!!
Y-
Yes, sir.
Déjà vu.
STAGGER
Izumi-sempai! Hang in there!
Listen, Suzuki. Split the pencil in half lengthwise, curl up a cheat sheet, and put it in the middle...
Um, Taka-shi...
What are you teaching her now?
.....
Here, tell me what you don't under-stand.
I don't even know what I don't understand.

There is absolutely no way she'll get an average score!!
We'll have to start with the basics.
For now, learn these by tomorrow.
Eeehhh?

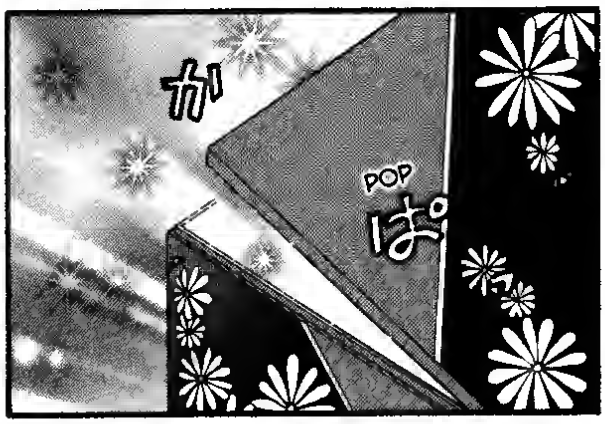
Why does your graph look like that!?
How many times do I have to tell you? We're talking about when x is greater than zero!
WHAP
Wrong!
Ow!

Yeah, yeah, yeah.
Here, read the problem carefully one more time!
Let's see...
WHIP
Please stop. If you hit me too much, I'll forget how to do the equations.
Say that when you actually know how to do them!
KNOCK
KNOCK
I have a delivery from Nanbu Depart-ment Store.
But when I look at numbers, I get so sleepy.
Don't fall asleep!!
CAMPUS

Yup.
You mean that classy Japanese restaurant?
Kitchô?
Thank you.
We are constantly in your debt. This is from Kitchô.
It looked like we'd be up late, so I ordered some *bentô*.
When you're done with that problem, let's take a break and eat, okay?


That's right. Except when the origin is zero.
But the origin can't be 0
I did it!

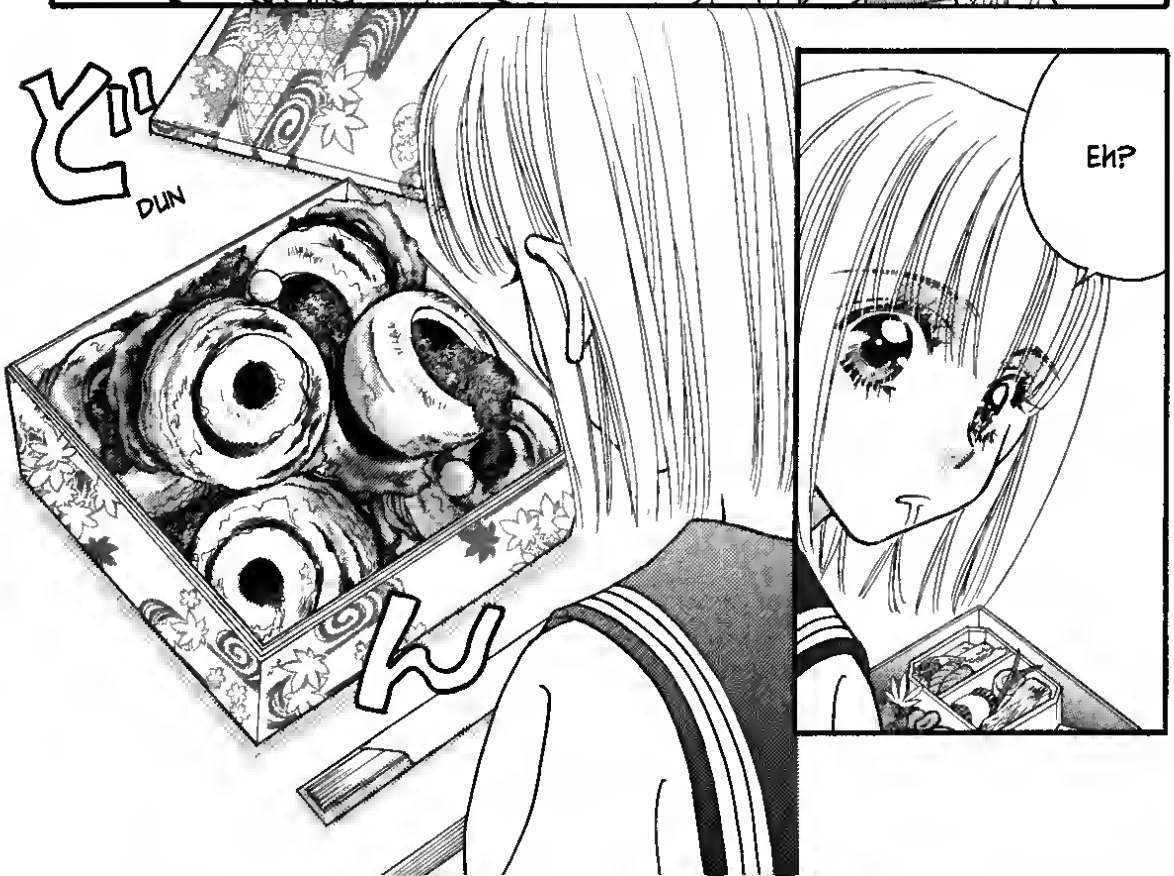
Well, I am hungry, so let's eat.
Yay ♡


か
POP
ぽ

Wow, Hana, you *can* do it if you try!
Good job, good job.
Hana-chan, that's amazing!
Food, food
HUFF
ぽっ
HUFF
ぽっ

Uwaaahhh ♡

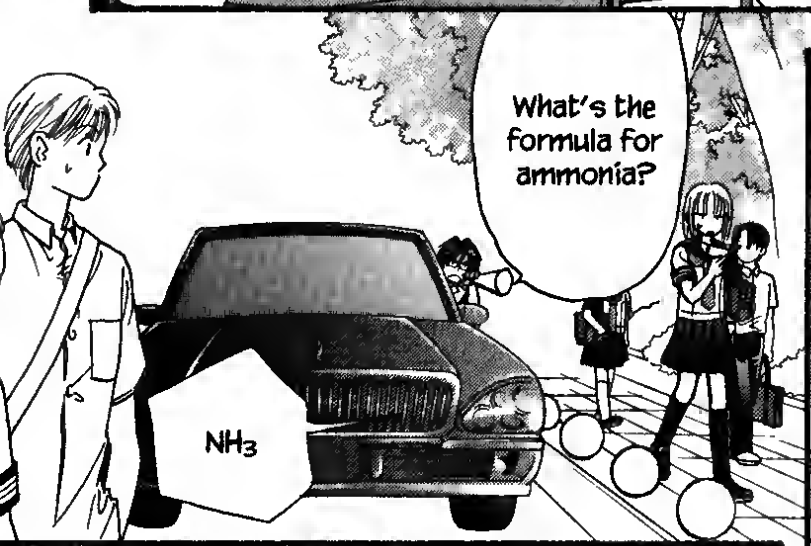
It looks so good~~
A steak *bentô*.
I thought that my whole life I'd only ever get to look at classy restaurant *bentô* in the store. ♡♡
That's not yours, Hana-chan. *This* one's for you.

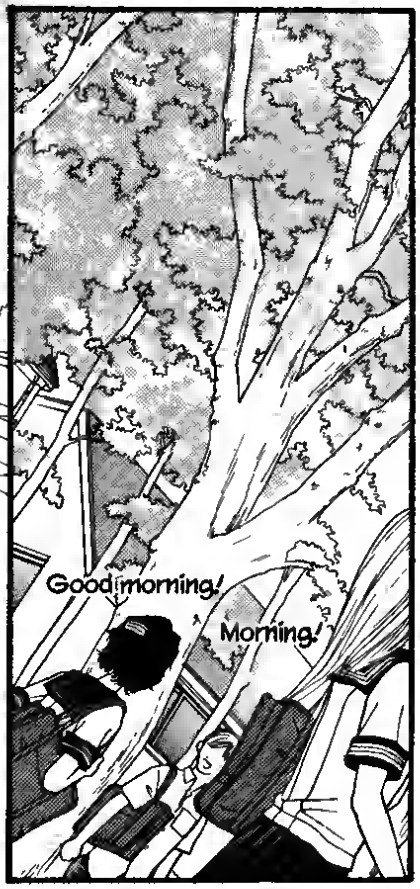

Eh?
どん
DUN

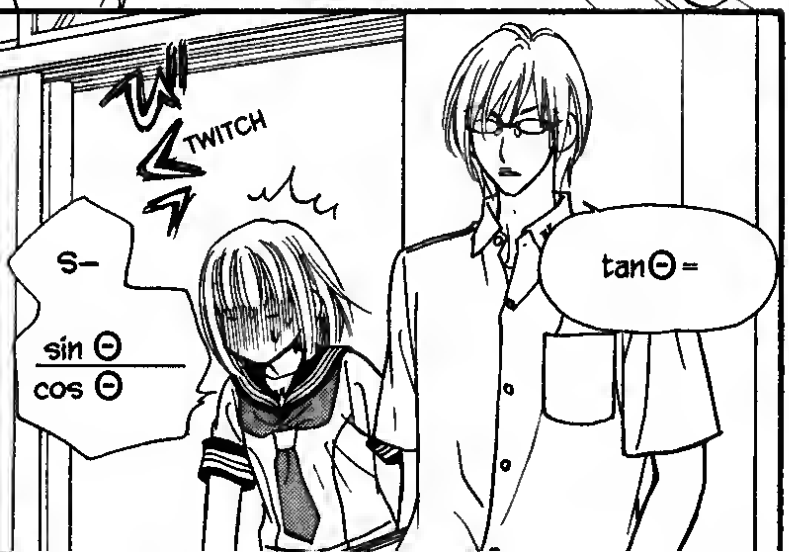
We're making you smarter, so you have to get lots of DHA.
GLORP
Tuna eyes.
What is this?
No! I want a steak bentô!
That's not fair, only you guys...!!
Japanese beef really is the best kind.
MM
MM
This bentô is delicious.
We had it made specially for you, so eat all of it.
Ugh...
We'll let you have some when you get average scores on your proficiency tests.
We didn't get 13 points on our tests.

Hana-chan, we made these to help you memorize stuff, so post them in your room. ♡
Steak bento
Open your mouth.
MMPH
Here. Hurry and eat and we'll get back to work.
Good for you, Hana-chan.

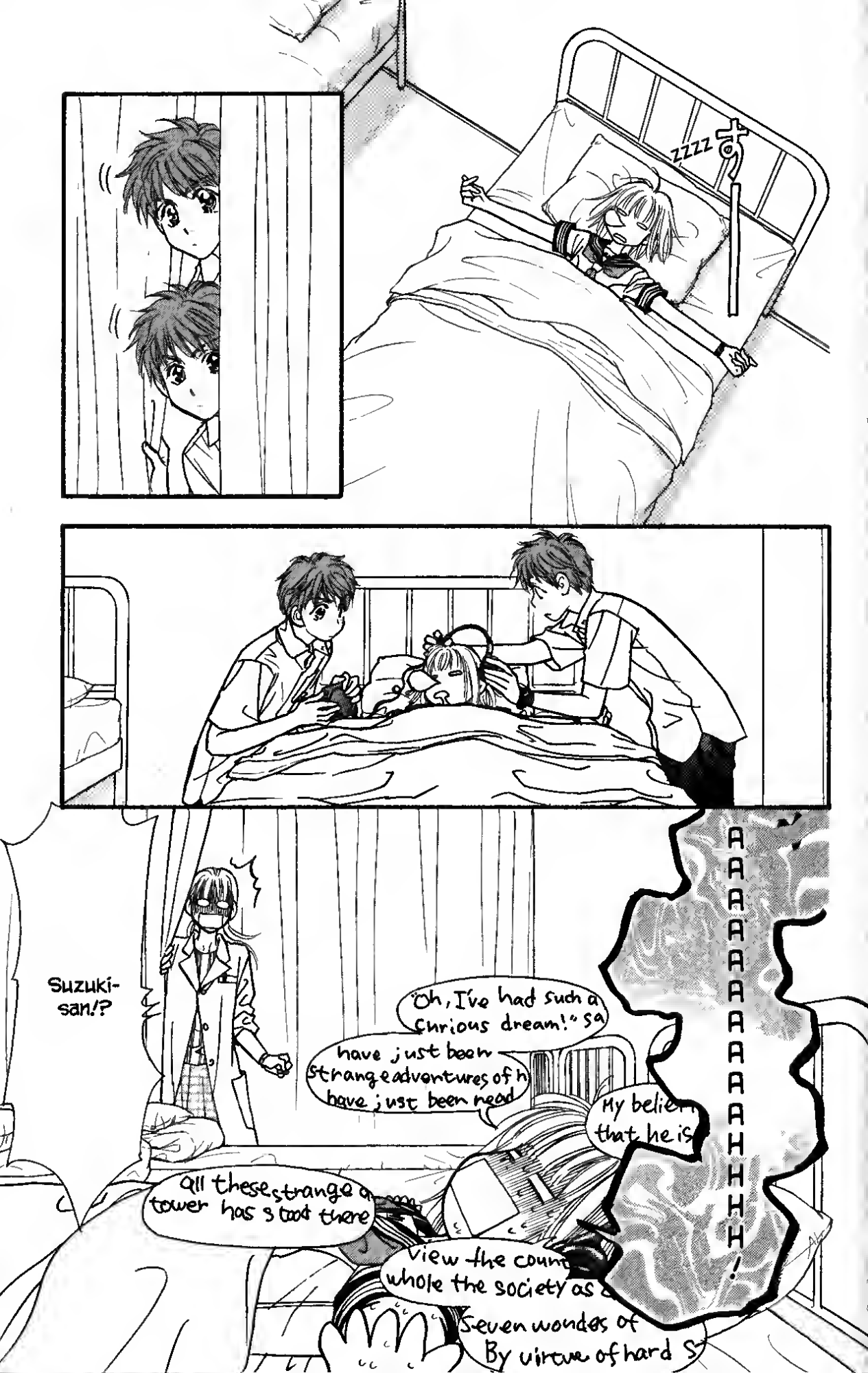
WHIP
Ouch!
There's no way they'd be right!!
HISSS
Eehh? But maybe some of them might be right!
Don't just make up formulas!


What's the formula for ammonia?
NH_3


Good morning!
Morning!


TWITCH
S=
$\frac{\sin\Theta}{\cos\Theta}$
$\tan\Theta =$

The T'ang Dynasty started in...
Th-the year 618!
SLAM
Keep the stalls clean
WHEW
ROLL
ROLL
Restroom
I'm tired...
I'm gonna go take a nap in the nurse's office.
What's wrong? Are you okay?


ZZZZ
Suzuki-san!?
"Oh, I've had such a curious dream!" Sa
have just been strange adventures of h
have just been read
My belief that he is
All these strange a tower has stood there
view the coun whole the society as
Seven wonders of
By virtue of hard S
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHH!

I don't care. Today I'm slacking off.
No more. They're always watching me. I can't even take a nap.
Verbs
World History Timeline
Suzuki Tofu
Don't fall asleep without even changing your clothes! I told you to do the problems from last year's test!
Hana, phone!
SNORE
R R R R R
Hana, dinner!
We got lots of food from Izumi-kun.
♡
Where is he!?

Unnngh
あーー
She can express h
devoted hin
cancer reseav
Then he tu
in America
rights of it
TWITCH
TWITCH
have neve
my name h
until I was f
fter had been
was walk
talking
to himself.
Earnest 真剣
Hello!
Big Brother
Big Brother
兄

Hey, Hana. Wake up!
Today is the last sprint! We're studying until morning.
POUND
POUND
POUND
SILENCE
We brought the chestnut *yôkan* you've been wanting to eat!
KACHA
REACH
Where's Hana-chan?
Welcome! What are you all doing here?
Oh, my.
Tomorrow is the proficiency test, so we came for one last cram session.
I called for her, but there was no answer.
I don't mind, so would you please go wake her?
Pardon our intrusion!
DOH
DOH
DOH
DOH

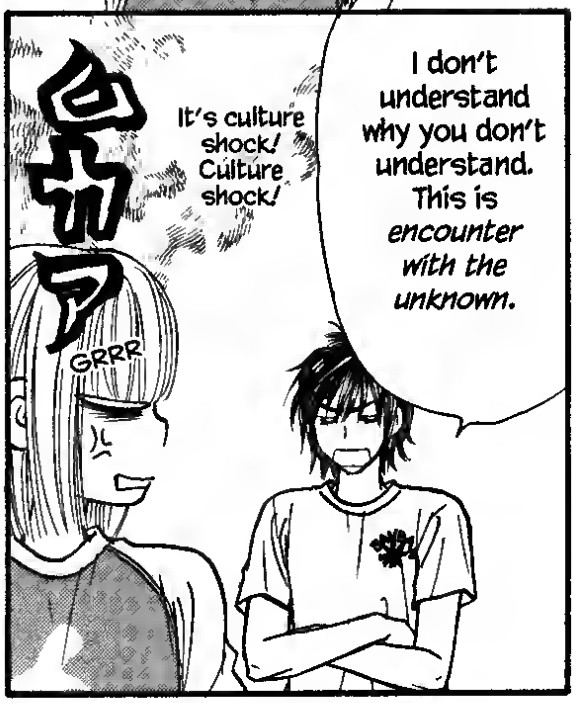
Please go away! I can't do it anymore! Today I'm going to rest in preparation for tomorrow!
Sunday is the day of rest! Even though my family is Jodo Shinshu!
What are you doing? Open up! Now!
KNOCK
GAH
Ouch!
KAPOW
Cut the crap! You're in terrible shape! This is no time to take it easy!
You can yell at me, but my brain is overloaded!
Are you even trying!?
How can you do a problem once and then forget how to do it the next day!?

Damn right!

KNOCK KNOCK
Hey!
Please stop that!
Is someone in there?
I'm not a bathroom stall!
What on Earth do you keep inside there?
You haven't learned enough to be overloaded.

I'm just stupid. People who can do it wouldn't understand.

GOH


I don't understand why you don't understand. This is *encounter with the unknown.*
It's culture shock! Culture shock!
GRRR

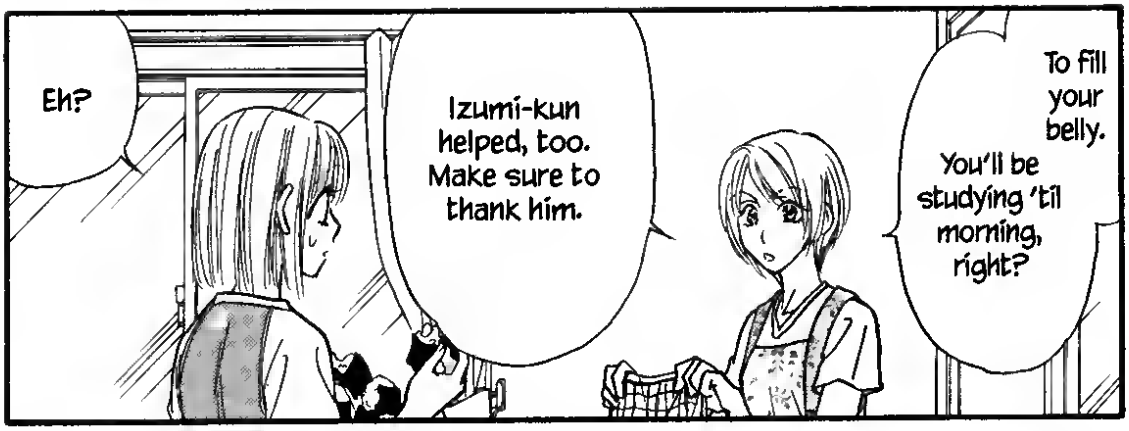
That hurt! What'd you do that for?
I never asked you to teach me anything, so why do I have to listen to you be so mean!?
I'm giving up my day off to help you! How dare you talk to me like that!
I can't take it anymore! I don't care if I have to take supplementary lessons or get held back a year. I'm through with studying!!
I don't care if you're held back a year! But don't you care about not being allowed to do club activities anymore!?
I didn't join your club because I wanted to! I don't care about club activities!
DARA

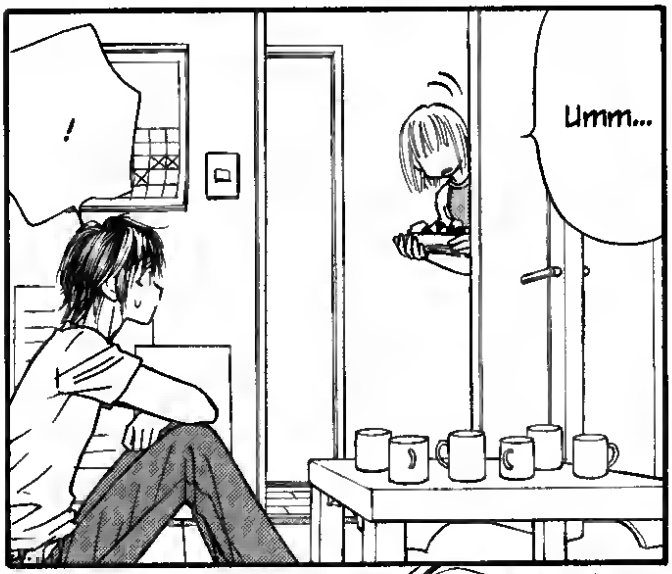
Hana-chan!
Hana?
DAAAHHH
And I don't care if I never get to eat a steak *bentô*!!
SLAM!
Hana-chan, you don't need to lock yourself in the bathroom.
Hey, Suzuki! Get out of there!
Go away!
KNOCK
KNOCK
.....
I'm sorry about Hana.
I'm sure she'll get hungry and come out soon.
Sorry...

Why should I?
Why don't you apologize to Hana-chan, too?
What will you do if she really can't come to club anymore?
Ergh...
I can't calm down.
I shouldn't have locked myself in the bathroom of all places.
Steak Bentô

GR
Excuse me for being so stupid. I give you culture shock.
You didn't even know how to use a gas stove.
GR
SNIFFLE
I don't care about the test anymore.
But I did want to eat a steak *bentô*.
GRUMBLE
I'm hungry...
I wonder what time it is.
PEER

Oh, Hana. Out already?
CLACK
ガチャ
Where are Izumi-sempai and the others?
Your room.
Hmm.
This girl.
I'm hungry.
Here, eat.
What is it?
So unorthodox...


To fill your belly.
You'll be studying 'til morning, right?
Izumi-kun helped, too. Make sure to thank him.
Eh?


Umm...
!

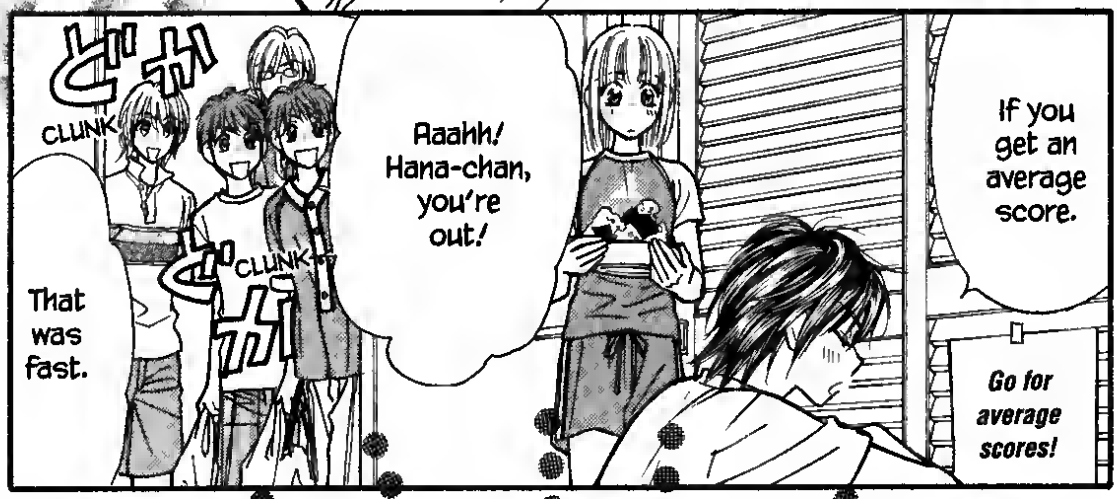
.....

Where is everyone?
Hana...

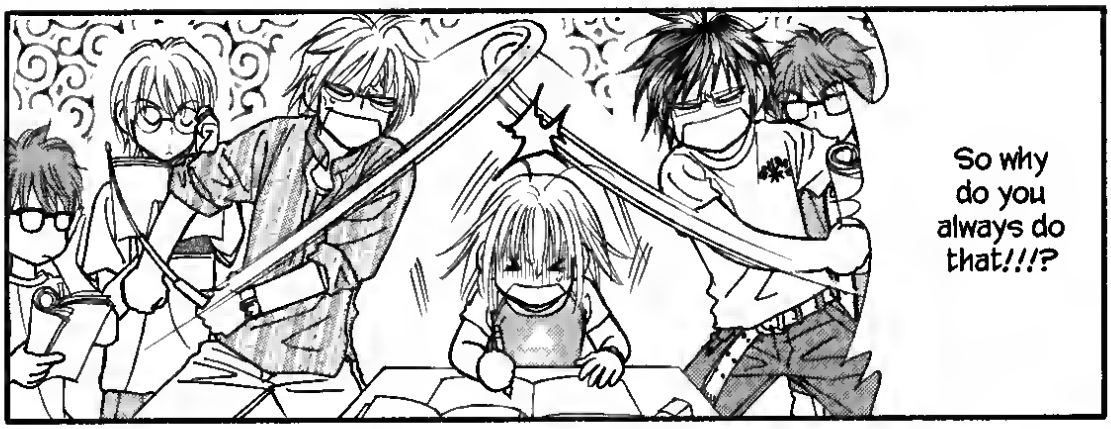
Steak bentô
Well, I was hungry.
That really was fast.
Convenience store.
If you don't like it, don't eat it!
It alternates between no salt at all and clumps of salt.
I couldn't help it. It was my first time making those.
Your fingers.
What happened?
No, that's not what I meant.
How do they get like that making onigiri?

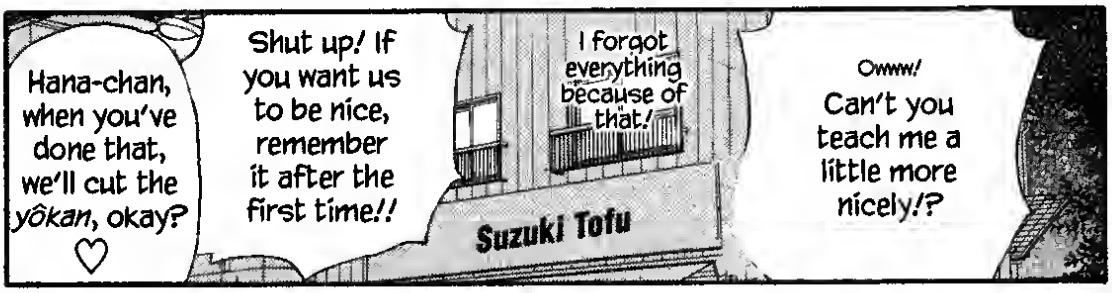
Hey, Hana.
We have a long break after the tests.
Want to have an away game and go somewhere with everybody?
.....
SCRATCH

Please throw in a steak *bentô*.


どか
CLUNK
CLUNK
どか
That was fast.
Aaahh! Hana-chan, you're out!
If you get an average score.
Go for average scores!

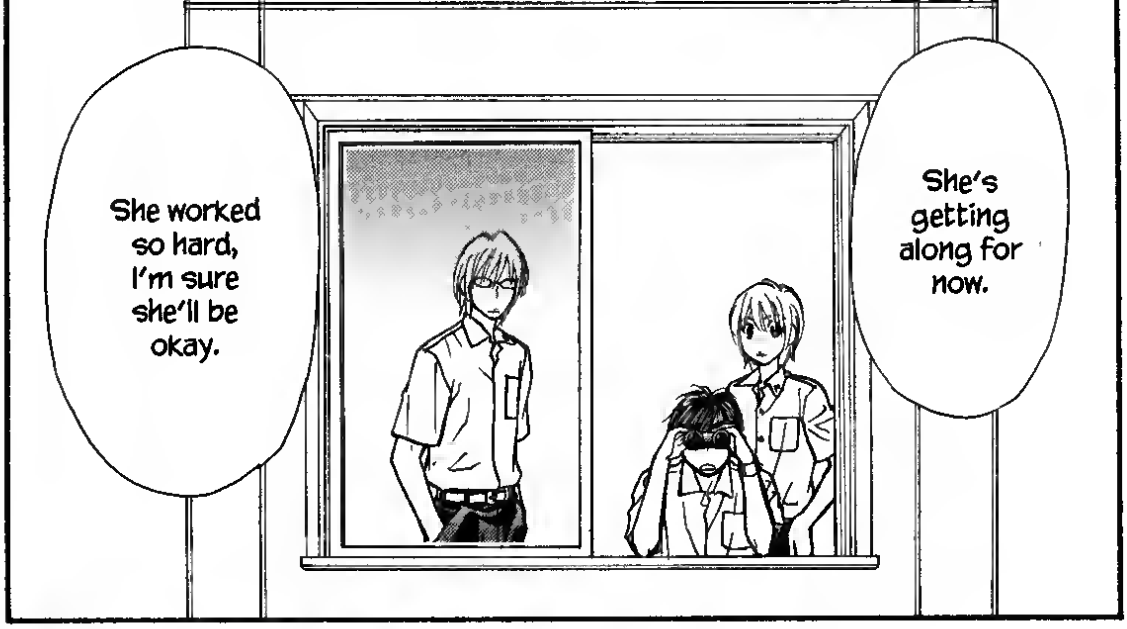
Go for an average score!!
Do your best, Hana-chan!
Then let's get started!

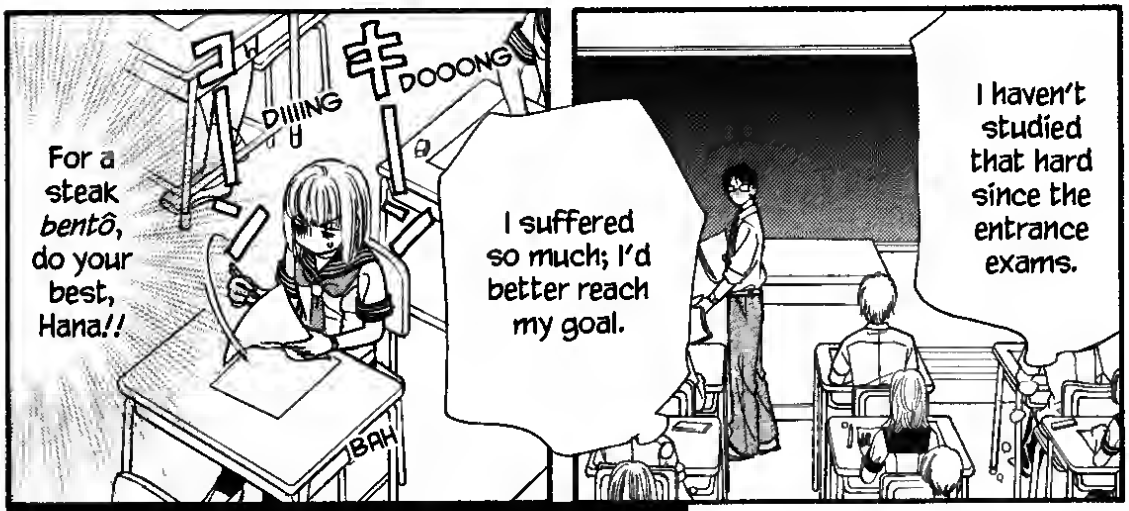

So why do you always do that!!!?


Hana-chan, when you've done that, we'll cut the yôkan, okay? ♡
Shut up! If you want us to be nice, remember it after the first time!!
I forgot everything because of that!
Suzuki Tofu
Owww!
Can't you teach me a little more nicely!?

どよん
GLOOM
GLINT

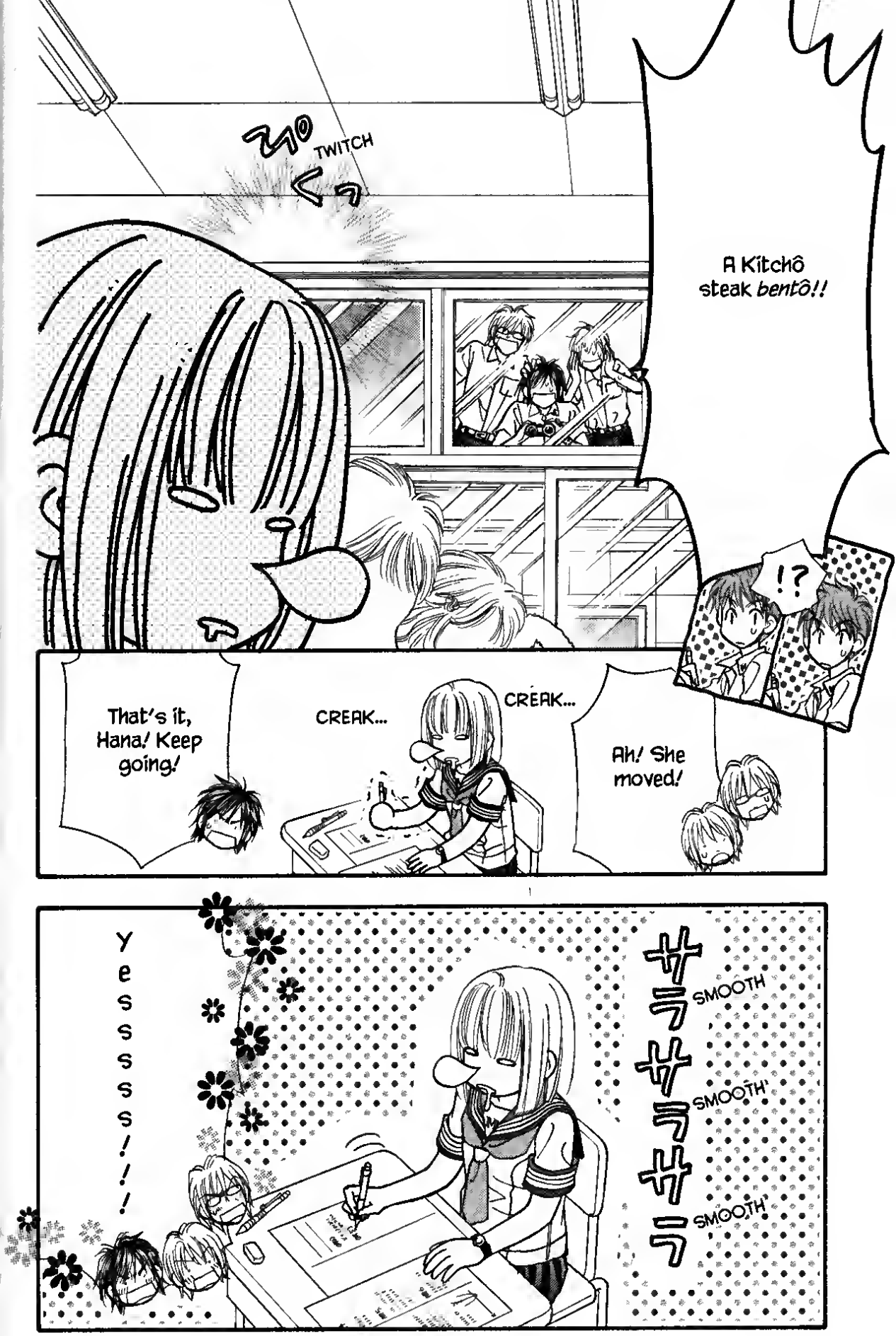
Hana, those are crazy circles under your eyes, and your face is all oily. Are you okay?
GLINT
ギラリ
I'm okay, I'm okay. I'm perfectly all right.
♡
ZZZZZ
Perfe...
Are... Are you really okay...?
Really, really.
STRAIN
Hang in there, Hana!!
STRAIN
WINCE
STRAIN
GIR!
ギリギリ
GIR!
Izumi, how is Hana-chan doing?



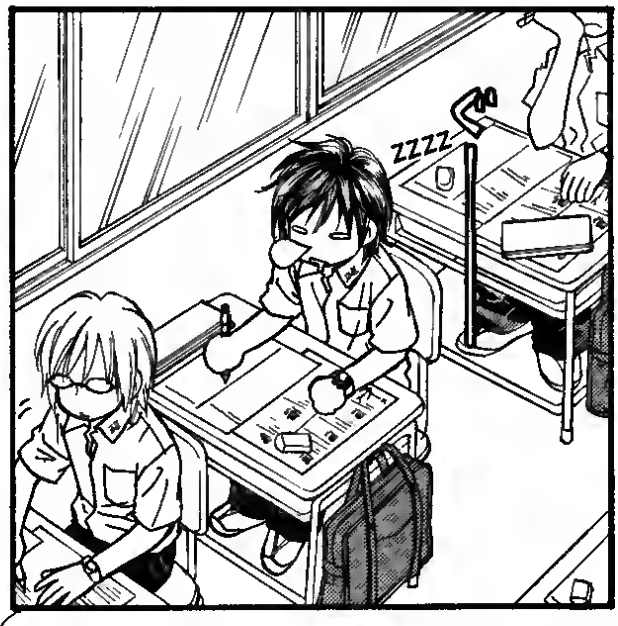

DIIIING
DOOONG
For a steak *bentô*, do your best, Hana!!
BAH
I suffered so much; I'd better reach my goal.
I haven't studied that hard since the entrance exams.

arabola y; -1 to the x
the vertex c
parabola parallel
The v
of b, c
the
two
ne

Hana!?
Hana, what are you doing? Wake up!
Hana-chan!
It's no good. She can't hear us.
Once she's asleep she won't wake up.
At this rate, you'll get a zero!
This is no time to be saying that!
Open your eyes, stupid!
Do you want to waste all our hard work!?

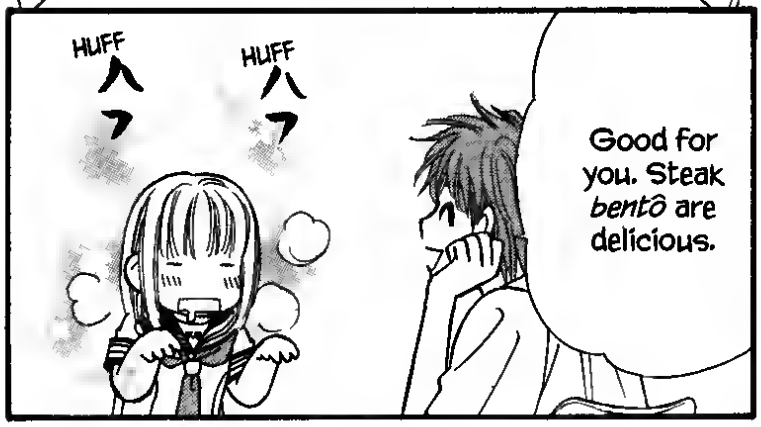

TWITCH
A Kitchô steak bentô!!
!?
That's it, Hana! Keep going!
CREAK...
CREAK...
Ah! She moved!
Yesssss!!!
SMOOTH
SMOOTH
SMOOTH

Good job, Hana! Keep it up!
You can do it, Hana-chan!
Oh, good. It looks like we're okay now.
スラスラ
SMOOTH
スラリ
SMOOTH
SMOOTH
She has to achieve our goal. We worked really hard.
For us.
Yeah.
We have to do our best, too.
That's stupid. Don't put me on Hana's level.
It'll be a piece of cake!


ZZZZ

Work hard like this for your midterms, too, okay?
I haven't gotten an average score since middle school. It feels good~~
Eh heh heh. It was thanks to all of you. Thank you.

Hana Suzuki
Wow, Hana-chan!
Hana Suzuki
Congratulations on getting average scores!
You can do it if you try.


HUFF
HUFF
Good for you. Steak *bentô* are delicious.

Izumi-sempai.
I really am thankful for what you did, Izumi-sempai.
So please don't be so depressed.
You can just try harder next time.
12 points.
PFF
Shut up! Whose fault do you think it is!!?
Here, Izumi. A snack.
You don't get a steak *bentô* after all!!
Eeehhh!?
That's mean!
That's not mature, Izumi.
But on my next quiz, I got 11 points.
SHOCK

The End

Chapter 14: Searching for Love

はFLUTTER
う
FLUTTER はう
DAAAAAZE
ぼ
SIIIIIGH
は
……

Wha?
Autumn is so poignant.
Izumi-sempai.
Hey, you two! Do you even want to be here!?
Ayuhara
Love at first sight!?
I've seen her every morning on my way to school lately.
Wow! What are they like?
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
はぐ はぐ はぐ
St. Johannes Girls' Academy? That school for super-rich girls?

It's unusual these days to see such a pure and innocent girl.
Like a single daisy blooming in a field.
So you fell in love with the same girl? You really are twins.
No, they're twins, too.
Eeehhh!?
Twins!?

Of course we do.
You haven't even talked to them. Do you know which one each of you likes?
.....
Izumi-sempai, can you even tell us apart?
Dunno.
They don't know, do they?
I haven't seen them.
We were just joking, but...!!
Eeeeehhh!?
Well, don't just sit here staring into space. Go talk to them or something.

Why can't you tell us apart? We're so different!!
You're exactly the same!
Izumi-sempai's mean, huh, Hana-chan?
My eyes are brighter!
What are you saying? Even our faces are different!
Older.
Younger.
So? Are you going to tell them how you feel?
Now, now.
Ayuhara
Ayuhara
Let's see...
GLANCE

IRKED
イラ
IRKED
イラ
If some guys they don't know suddenly told them they liked them, they might run away.
FIDGET
もじ
FIDGET
もじ
We...
We couldn't do that. Tell them our feelings...
TURN
All right, fine.
I've got no choice. I'll help you out.
Izumi-sempai!
Man, you guys are pathetic!
And you call yourselves men!?
Leave it to me!
MUNCH
はぐ
MUNCH
はぐ
Wow, Izumi, you're so dependable!
...

Wow, they're exactly alike.
They really are a rare type these days.
They wouldn't fall asleep on a roadside, even by mistake.
That's St. Johannes for you. They're the exact opposite of someone I know.
They're as cute as ever.
ZZZZZ
Well?
Who likes who?
The one on the left!
I like the one on the right.

They look the same to me.
Do you get brain waves or something, since you're all twins?
Don't you think the one on the right/left is cuter!?
Well, whatever.
Are you both ready?

Will this really work?
What are you saying? Everyone knows you *crash into her from around the corner with bread in your mouth!*

Izumi, they're here!
SHOVE
Now, get out there!

DAAAAHH!
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP
TURN
We can't do it!!
K-KICK
I told you to get out there!!

KAPOW!
Hup!
DOH
DO
Hup!
DO
DO
DO
Ah.
TWITCH
...OW
OWOWOWOW!
Wait!
Hey, you okay!?
Hup!
Hup
E-earthquake!?
Umm...
Are you all right?

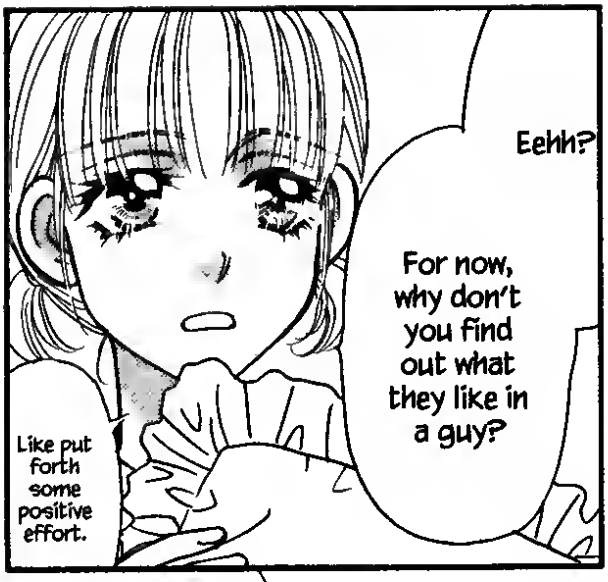
AH...
B-BMP
キュ

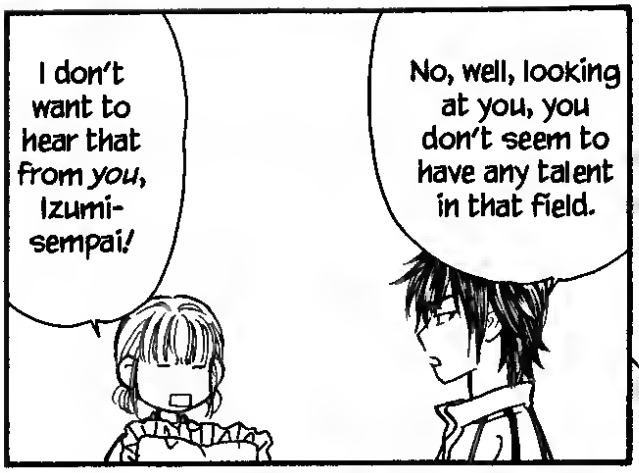
If they keep that up, it might work.
Good luck! Older, younger!
BLUSH
U-um, we, that is—
I'm Ginta Ayuhara!
N—
Nice to meet you! I'm Kinta Ayuhara!
SHOOT
Please, use this.
Oh no! You're bleeding.

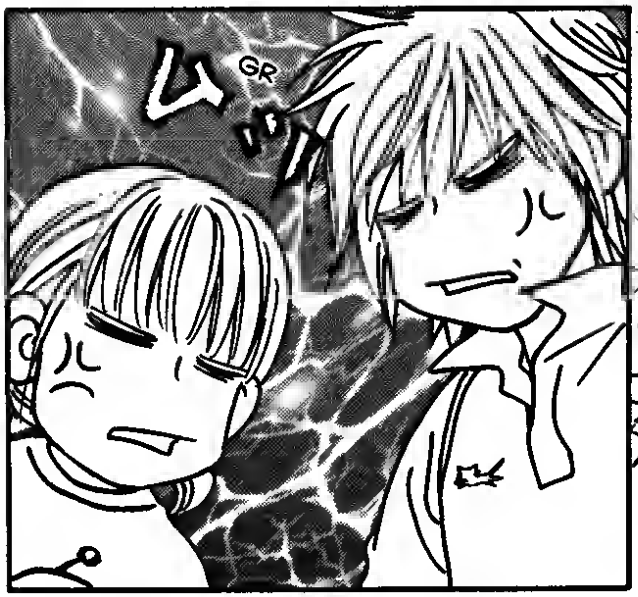
Here.
zzzzz
It wasn't an earthquake.
Yesssssss!!!

Eeehh? You got the wrong ones?
That's right.
I like the older sister, Rin-chan
and I like the younger sister, Ran-chan.
And they like the opposite.
We managed to make plans to see them again on Sunday, but...
Why did it have to turn out like this?
What's your problem? They're not that different from each other.
Yes, they are!!

Really?
What the heck were you looking at!?
They don't look anything alike!
No.
They really aren't that different, are they?
No, Rin-chan's is!
And Ran-chan's face is cuter.
Rin-chan is more laid back, while Ran-chan is more spaced out.
Might as well get a girl's opinion.
Hey, Hana-chan, what do you think?
Oh, what should we do?
.....
We don't have the same taste in girls at all!
Ah
Good thing!


Eehh?
For now, why don't you find out what they like in a guy?
Like put forth some positive effort.


I don't want to hear that from *you*, Izumi-sempai!
No, well, looking at you, you don't seem to have any talent in that field.


GR

What's that supposed to mean?
I thought it would be pointless asking Hana-chan, but now I'm glad we did!
Oohh, I get it!

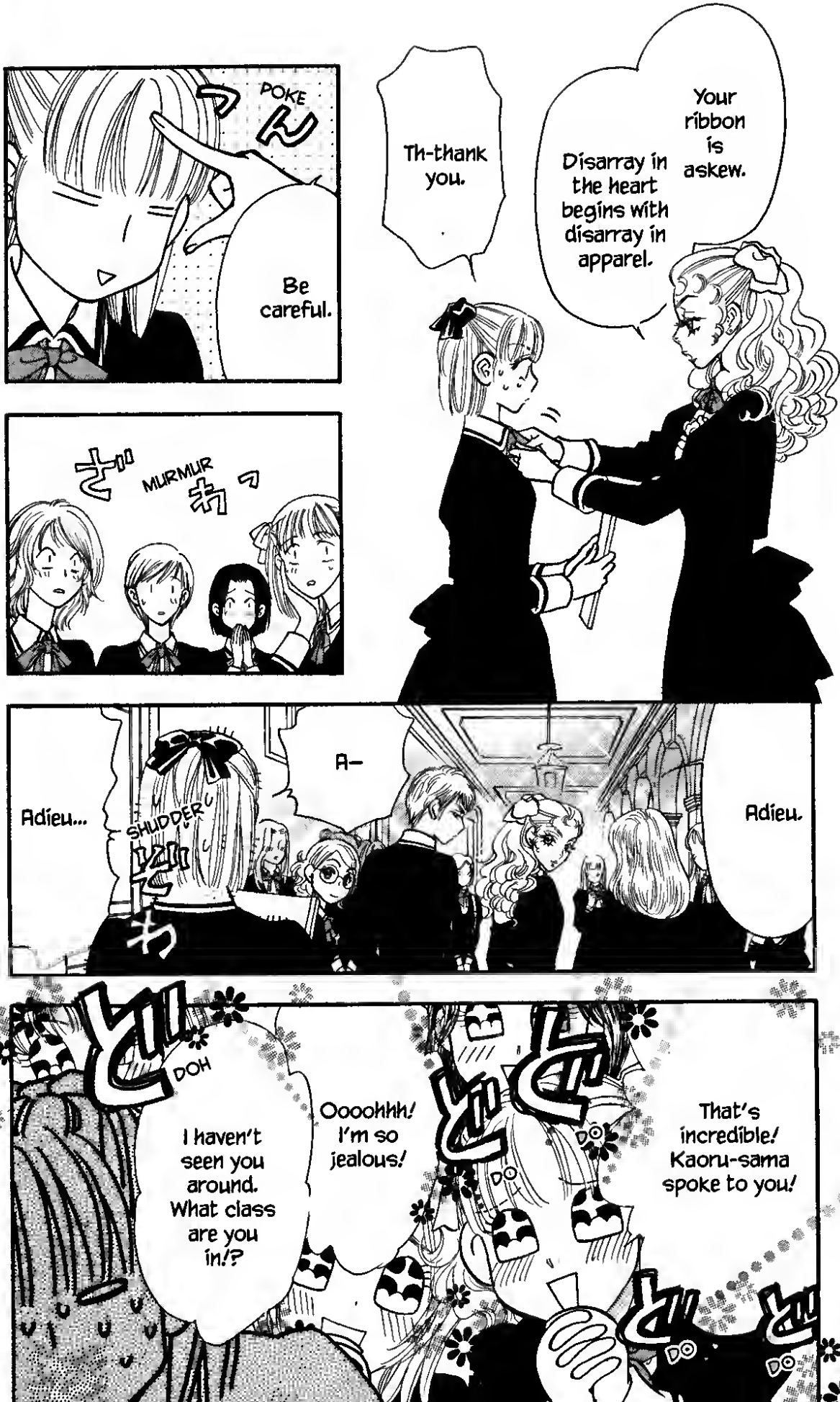
Izumi-sempai!
All right. We'll pitch in help the twins out one more time.
She's right. It's not uncommon to talk to someone and find out they're different than your first impression.
Eh!?
Hana! You infiltrate St. Johannes and find out what type of guys the sisters like!
Fish with Human Face
We'll get a uniform for you so they won't find you out, so stop whining and go.
What are you saying? This is for your team-mates.
And doesn't that make *me* the one pitching in to help the twins?
Eeehh~~? No, I don't want to. It's such a pain.

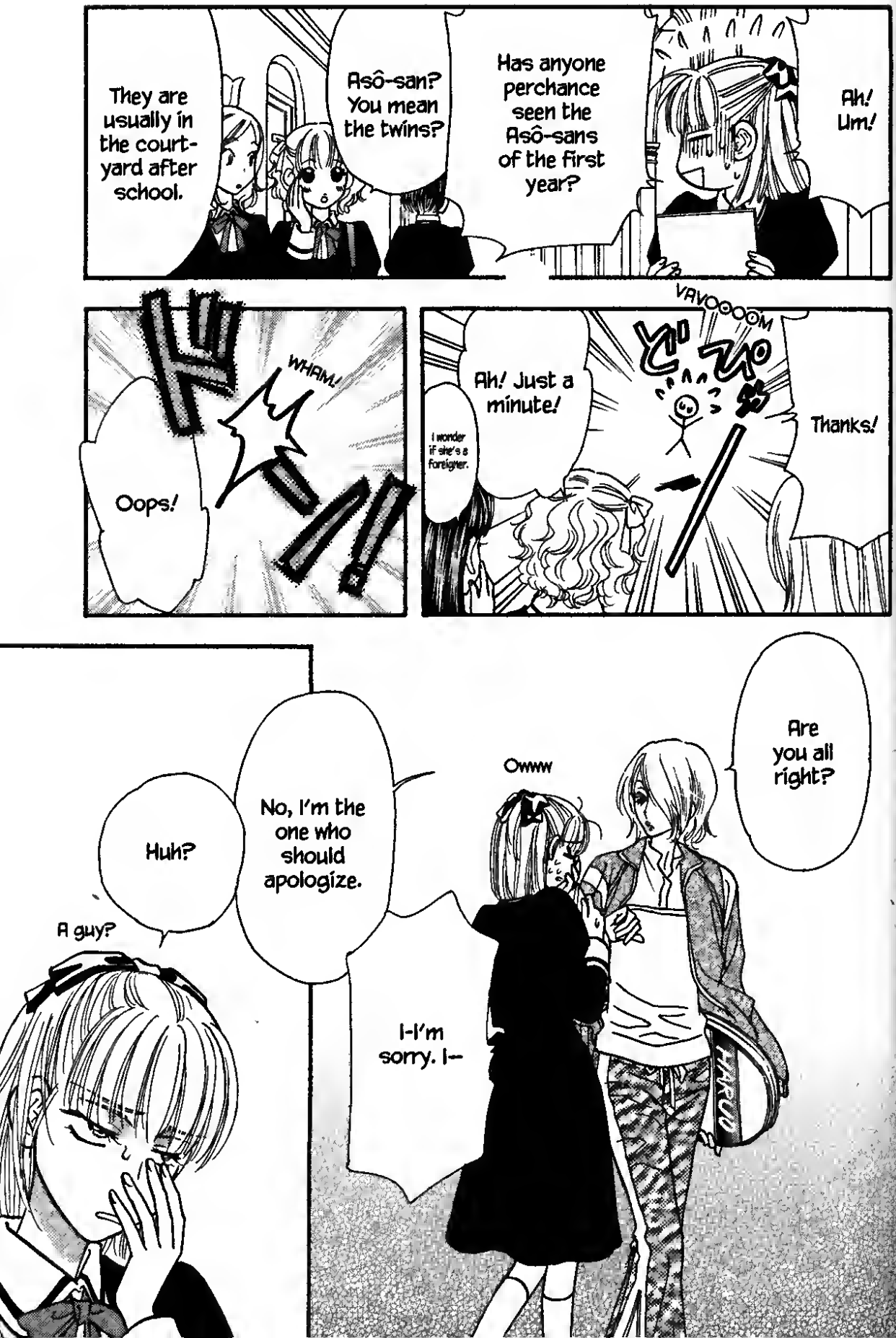
How nice! Sounds like fun!
The St. Johannes uniforms are so prim and cute.
In that case, why don't you do it, Natsuki-sempai?
If Natsuki did it, he would stand out too much.
He's ill-suited for investigations.
We want someone plain-looking. Someone plain, who won't stand out!
To blend in!
Would you stop calling an adolescent maiden plain over and over!?
Yes, I know I'm plain!
Hana-chan, we're begging you.
The spring-time of our youth depends on it!
Y—
You can say that, but...
Tch. I wish they hadn't said that.

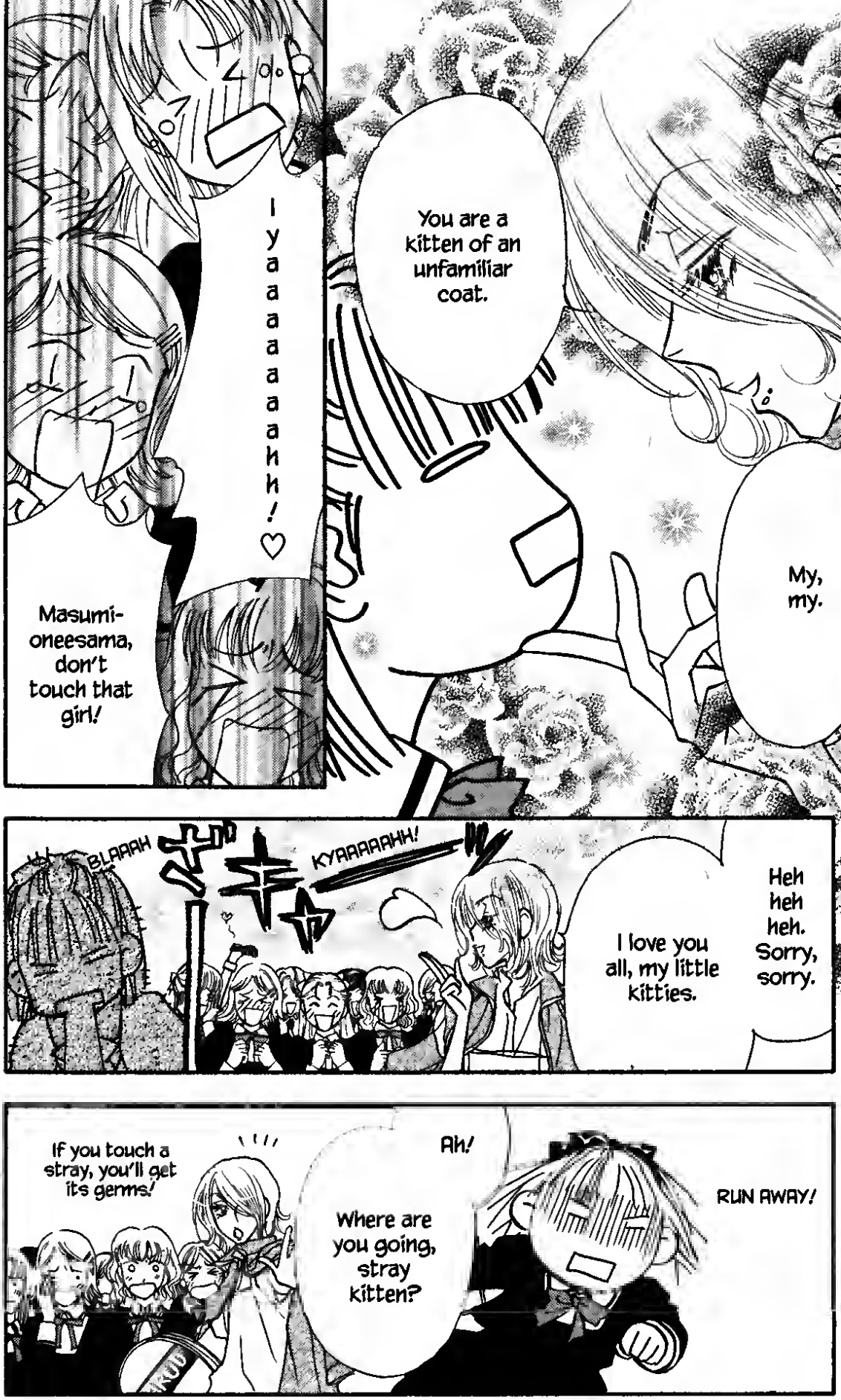
'Kay?
Please?
"Kay"?
Guys...
Ugh...

How do you do?
How do you do?
My...
School bell (hand bells)
CHIRING
CHIRING
My butt itches, I'm so out of place...

Good luck!
Izumi-sempai and the others keep saying it's for the twins.
But I know they just think this is funny.
Their eyes were laughing!
But this school is just as prestigious as ours, but it's completely different.
Kyaaaa ♡
It's the ladies from the White Rose Committee!
DOKI
DOKI
That's an all-girls' school for you.
Hana Report
White Rose Committee?
How do you do, Kaoru-sama?
They have a mysterious aura.
They're so wonderful.
Y-yes!?
FLINCH
Oh. You.


POKE
Be careful.
Th-thank you.
Disarray in the heart begins with disarray in apparel.
Your ribbon is askew.
MURMUR
A—
Adieu...
SHUDDER
Adieu.
DOH
I haven't seen you around. What class are you in!?
Oooohhh! I'm so jealous!
That's incredible! Kaoru-sama spoke to you!
DO
DO
DO
DO


Ah! Um!
Has anyone perchance seen the Asô-sans of the first year?
Asô-san? You mean the twins?
They are usually in the court-yard after school.
VAVOOOOM
Thanks!
Ah! Just a minute!
I wonder if she's a foreigner.
WHAM!
Oops!
Are you all right?
Owww
No, I'm the one who should apologize.
Huh?
A guy?
I-I'm sorry. I--

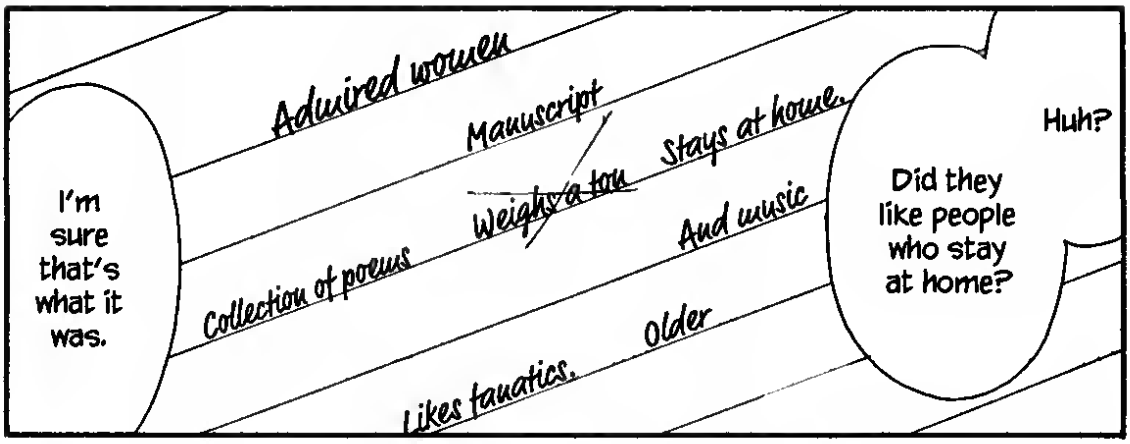

Iyaaaaaaahh!♡
Masumi-oneesama, don't touch that girl!
You are a kitten of an unfamiliar coat.
My, my.
BLARRH
KYAAAAAHH!
I love you all, my little kitties.
Heh heh heh. Sorry, sorry.
If you touch a stray, you'll get its germs!
Ah!
Where are you going, stray kitten?
RUN AWAY!

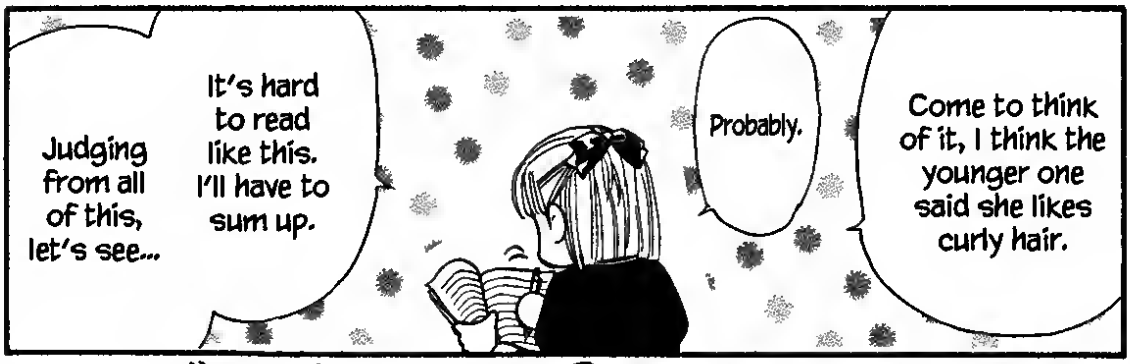
I'd better do what I came here to do and get out of here!!
There really are people like this in girls' schools!
I thought it was just a joke.
It's no good. I just can't fit in here!
ほう…
SIGH...
PORT
Kaoru-sama and Masumi-sama are both as wonderful as ever.
うっとり
DREAMY
It's true...
There!
But really, Kinta-san is more wonderful.
No, Ginta-san is!
The sisters like that stuff, too?

What will we do, Ran-chan?
My mind is so full thinking about Sunday that I haven't made any progress on my manuscript for the literature club.
I know, sister. This is the first time we've met men outside, after all.
Mm.
PERK

We only ever stay at home, reading books.
Poems by Heine
Bookish girls, huh?
Ginta-san and his brother said they're in the hockey club.
It's wonderful when men devote themselves to one thing, isn't it?
Poems by Heine

Mm, mm.
ふふん
I wonder what we should wear.
Stay at home.
They like people who devote themselves to one thing.
Yes.
Say, why not look at some dresses on the way home?
Then, may we stop by the music shop, as well? There is some sheet music I want.
All right, this should do it!
Phew. I'm glad that went faster than I expected.
I really do prefer my... life.
Their taste in men is completely opposite... there.
But it's good that we have completely different taste in men, isn't it?
Tee hee hee.




Judging from all of this, let's see...
It's hard to read like this. I'll have to sum up.
Probably.
Come to think of it, I think the younger one said she likes curly hair.

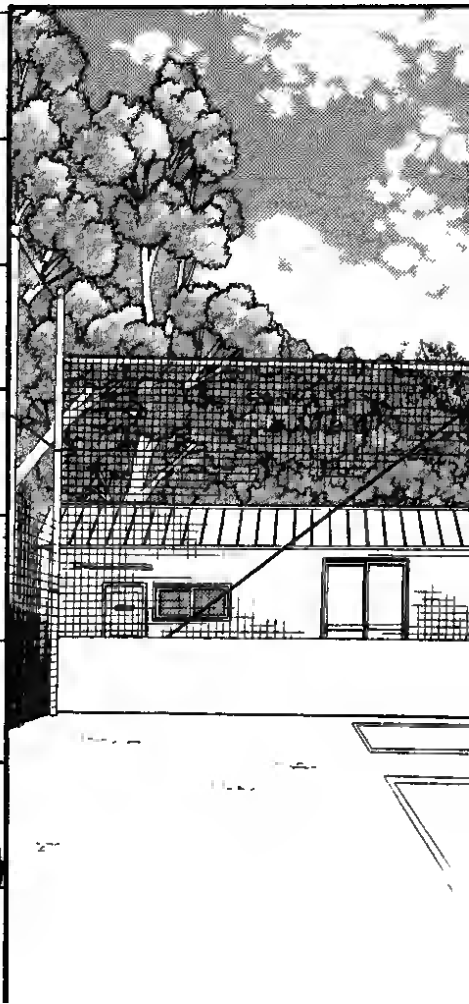
Haua Report

Favorite type of man

Older --> Akiba type

Younger --> Minstrels

That is all!



Good work.
Excellent, Hana! You've done well!
Eh, heh heh! Sure thing!
Thank you, Hana-chan! We'll do our best!!
I think.
I worked really hard and gathered the perfect information, so you'll be absolutely okay!
Not to worry!
We don't know anything about those—
But Akiba-type and minstrels, huh?
Hana Report

I will use all the power of the Oda Family to transform you!
Izumi-sempai!
We'll help, too.
Right, Takashi?
Of course.

Twin Transformation

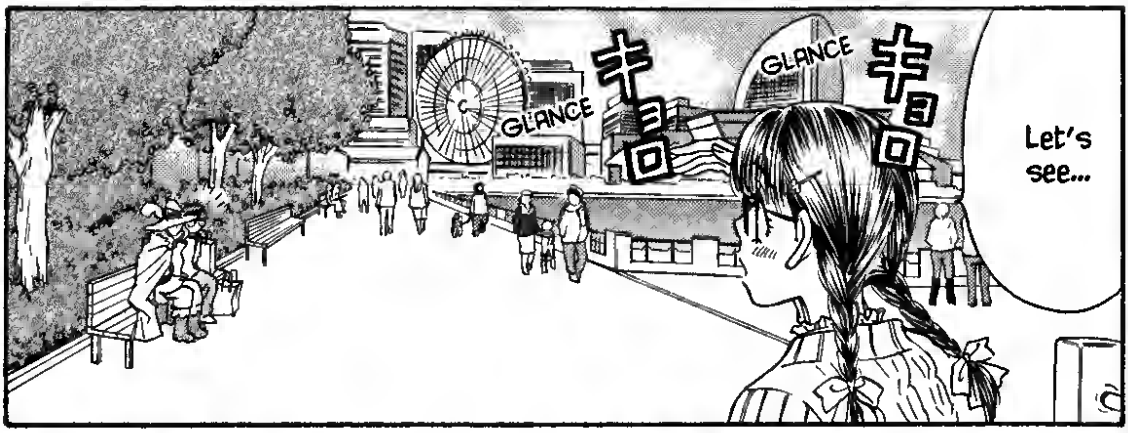
双子をプロデュース

Leave it to us!
Listen up, guys! Romance is all about acting.
If you're gonna do it, do it right! Aim for the perfect Akiba type and minstrel!
Yeah!!
Springtime of youth.

Curly hair
Welcome!
I welcome you home! No contractions.
Yeah!

SHUT
バタン
Wait, sister!
Hurry, hurry!
Maybe I should have let my hair down after all.
Say, I don't look strange, do I?

Last time, we were in our uniforms.
The idea of meeting them in their regular clothes makes me nervous.
Tee hee hee hee
He looks great with the stand-up collar, but I'm sure Kinta-san will look wonderful in regular clothes, too.
No, Ginta-san will, of course!


GLANCE
キョロ
GLANCE
キョロ
Let's see...

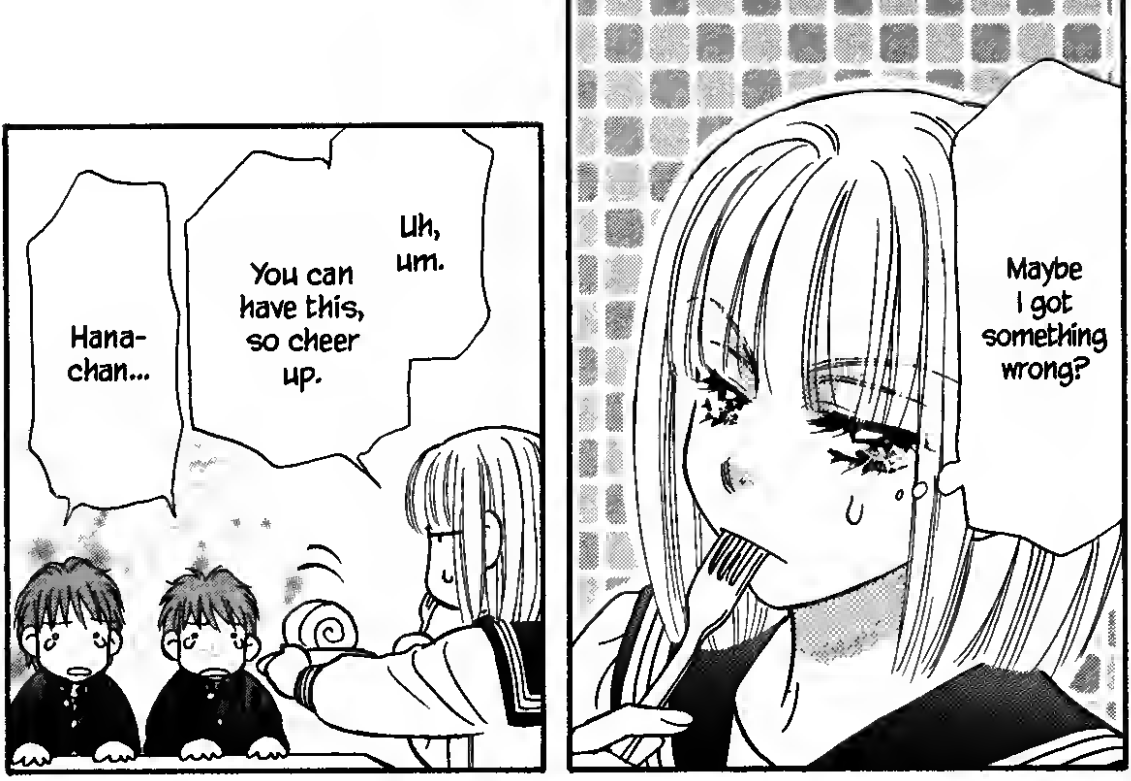
Oh, good. It looks like they're not here yet.

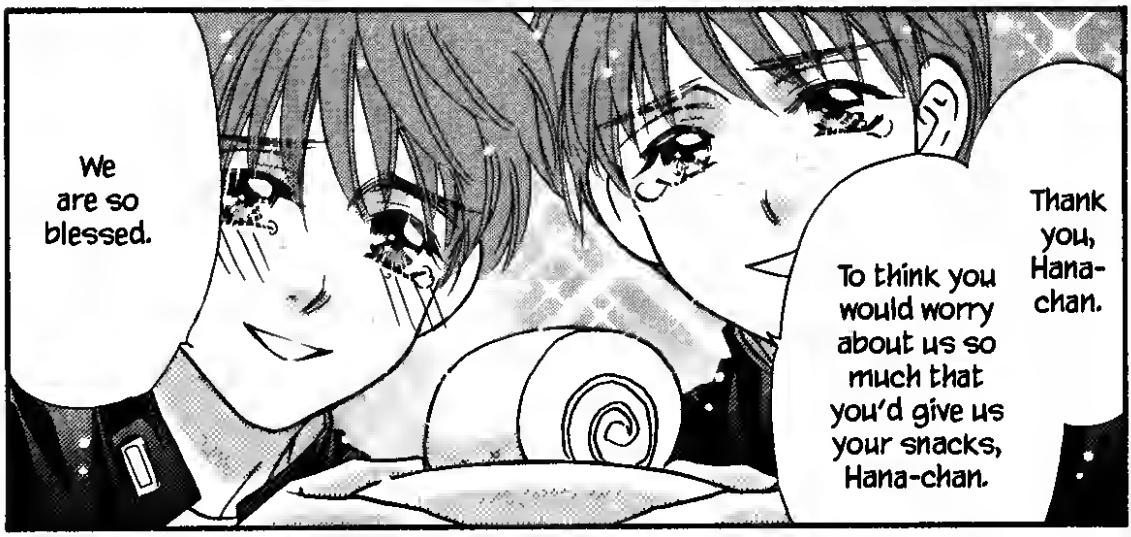
Huh?
Please wait, Señorita.

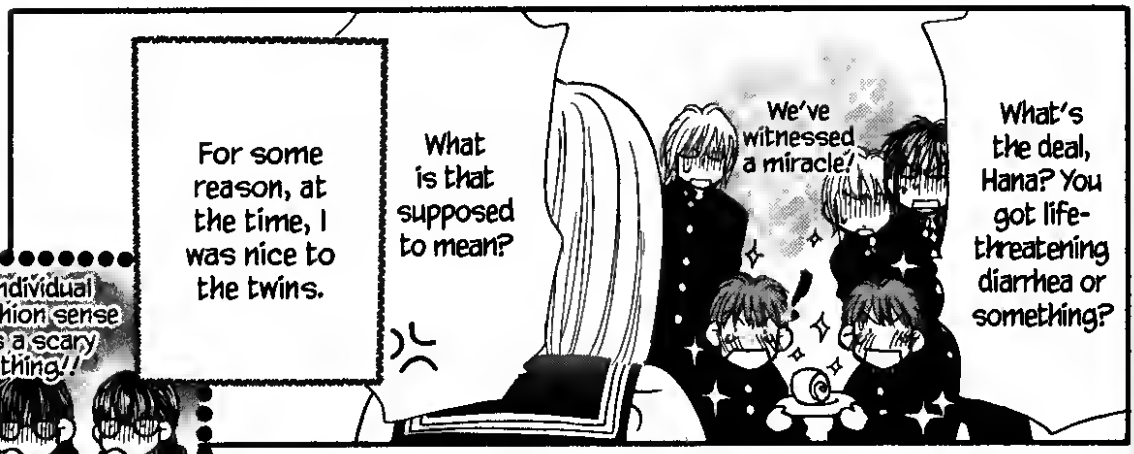
STRUM
ポロ
H—
Hello.
TYPE 100
Ladies...
How do you do? Where do you go?

STA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TURN
Why, oh why~~ Do you run from me~? I have waited for so looong! My fragile heart is breaking~~
DAAAAAAHHH
Rin-chan!
You're here!!
WOOF WOOF
Moe-moe~
Wait!
Kyaaahh! Kyaaaah!

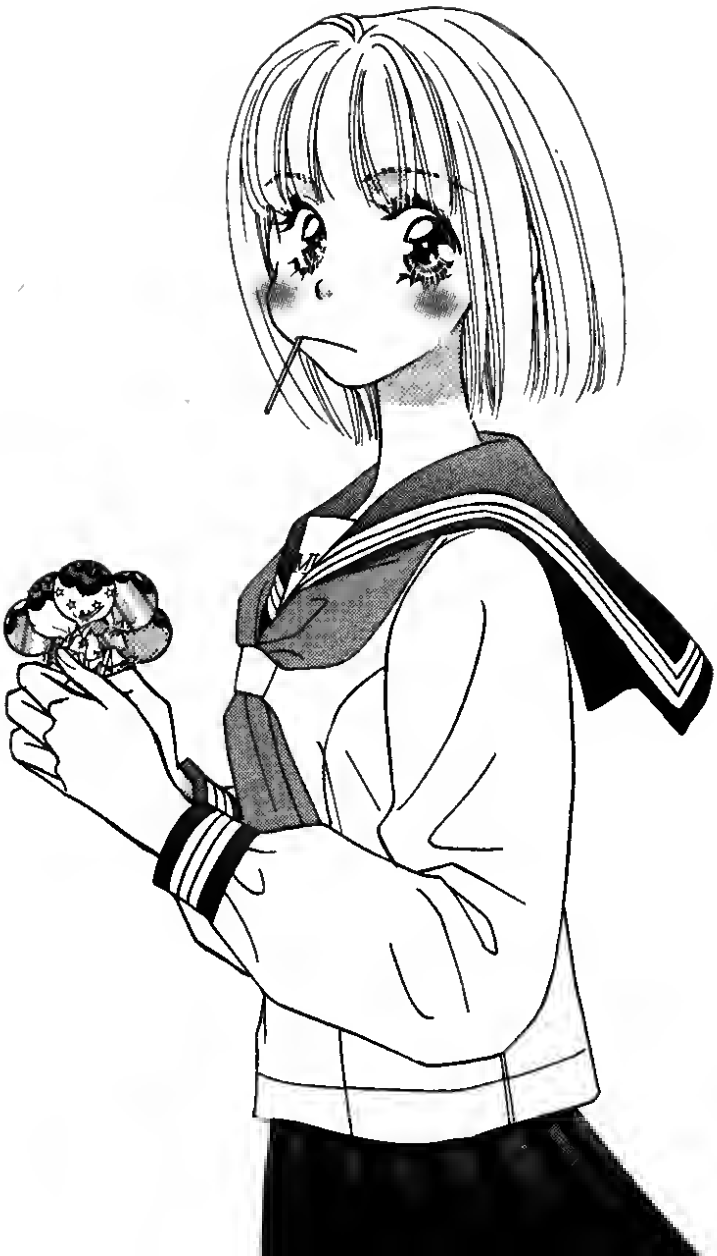
Where did we go wrong...?
SOB
SOB
SOB
That's weird. We were their perfect ideals.
Right, Hana?
Y-yeah...


Maybe I got something wrong?
Uh, um.
You can have this, so cheer up.
Hana-chan...


Thank you, Hana-chan.
To think you would worry about us so much that you'd give us your snacks, Hana-chan.
We are so blessed.


What's the deal, Hana? You got life-threatening diarrhea or something?
We've witnessed a miracle!
What is that supposed to mean?
For some reason, at the time, I was nice to the twins.
Individual fashion sense is a scary thing!!

The End



Chapter 15: Operation Hot Springs Egg!

Listen, guys. This time, we really are going to have a match.
We're not going to play around.
This is a hockey manga, after all!
We're going for our first victory!
HUMMMM

Betsubu General Hospital
I guess there was something in the breakfast we had at training camp~~
And here you came all this way. We're so sorry...
BLEAGH
It shook...
Afraid of heights

CLAAANG
It's still afternoon, so why is the sun setting...?

Hell baked pudding~~
Steamed dumplings!
Hell tour, hell tour!
We have time, so we could do some sightseeing around Beppu before we go to Yufuin.

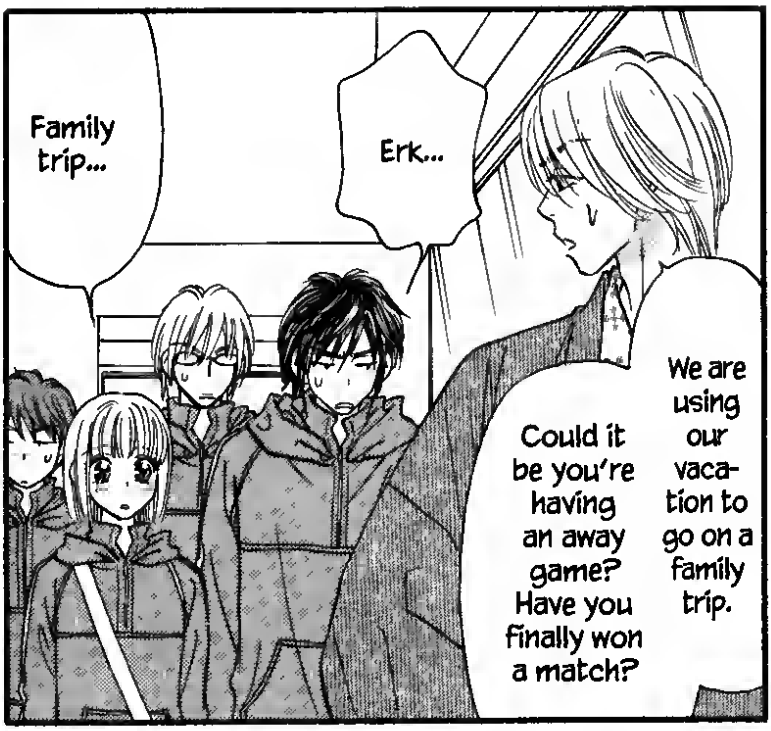
PERK
"So delicious that eating it will add seven years to your life, the elusive hot springs egg!"
Ah, cool! This is great!
Hey, Izumi. Let's go!
Yufuin!

"The elusive chicken may or may not lay one egg a day, so get there early!" it says.
Now, let's finish sightseeing and get to Yufuin!
.....
These sticks are in the way right now, so we'll just send them back!

Whoa—
So this is the chicken that lays the elusive hot springs eggs—
GLANCE
Because this is the only hen that lays eggs that will become elusive hot springs eggs.
Ooooohhh
That kinda ticks me off...
Cool! Her pen is complete with air conditioning!
Oh, I see!
At the time she lays it, it's a normal egg.
And a plasma TV!
HMPH
I don't like her...

UNEXPECTED
ばったり
Here it is, this is the place.
Has she already laid an egg today?
Well...
Ôta the Elder (tennis club), see volume 2
What are you guys doing here!?
That's my line!!

GULP


Family trip...
Erk...
We are using our vacation to go on a family trip.
Could it be you're having an away game? Have you finally won a match?

Don't go calling people's little brothers your pillow!!
Who are you calling a stomach pillow!!?
Hey, Hana! I bought you a bed, didn't I!?
That means the *stomach pillow* is with you!

Hello...
H—
TIMID
TIMID
Elisabetta

Who's that?
The stomach pillow.
B-Brother...
That's mean...
E—
Eeeeehhhh!?
No way!
Your little brother!?
I...I went through
A lot of fear and shock, and lost weight...
Well, he is at an age where he would be sensitive to that.
That would hurt him pretty bad.
.....

Hana, you did a good thing.
Huh?
No longer interested
Whew
As a girl, Hana-chan is doing things all wrong.
Yup, all wrong.
Oh yeah. On to business.
Excuse me, where is the elusive hot springs egg?
About that.
Shut up. I wasn't asking you.
IRK
IRK
Hey! I was here first!
IRK
BAKAWK!
JUMP
I'm sorry. She's rather difficult.
Ugh, you're so annoying! Get out of here, all of you!
GAH
GAH
GAH
GAH
GAH
GAH
BASH
BASH

Recently, she has been in a foul mood and won't lay any eggs.
Whaaah?
I'm tired of laying eggs just so they can be eaten.
But I was so looking forward to it.
Hot springs egg...
Izumi-sempai, cheer her up and make her lay an egg.
Why do I have to cheer up a chicken!?
If I get her to lay an egg, may I be the one to eat it?
By all means.
Elisabetta
Hey, wait! I told you I was here first!
I thought you didn't want to cheer up a chicken.
It's better than letting you eat something I can't!

All right, fine.
Then it's a *contest* to see who can make her lay an egg first.
Just what I wanted!

You're staying here!
GAH
B-bring me back something!

Then, we're off to see the sights. Good luck.
Ah! Guys!
Me too. ♡
Local *oyako-don* ♡
I'm interested in this roll cake!
This *nama tofu* looks good.
Bururu: Yufuin, Beppu

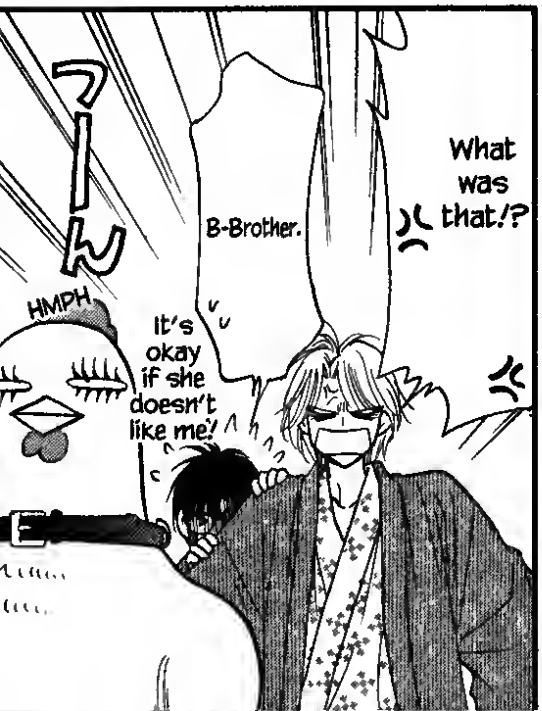
You sound like a manga artist who says that when going to the convenience store after an all-nighter...
To lay good eggs, you need moderate exercise.
You can't just lie around in your room.
BAKAWK!
Come on.
FLAP
What is this? Let go! It's too bright out here! My eyes hurt!
FLAP
DADAAAHH
PI
PI
Man, you're hopeless.
H-hey! What are you doing!?
It feels nice being outside, doesn't it? Now come on, run.
I hate working up a sweat.
HMPH

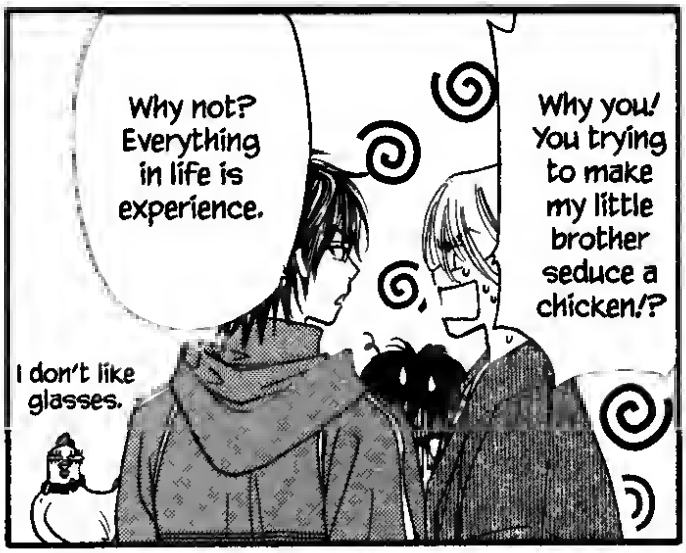
Drink this and build your stamina.
KERPLOP
KERPLOP
KERPLOP
For a chicken, you have no stamina. Because you live in that fancy room doing nothing.
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
What is this? You've still got lots of energy!
KICK
Don't make me into a cannibal!
You have no consideration!
KICK
KICK
KICK
Aahh! Izumi!
GR
Really, what are you doing?
At that rate, you'll only give her more stress.

I prefer WaT.

The Vienna Philharmonic, conducted by Myung-Whun Chung.
Dvořák 3rd and 7th symphonies
At times like these, the best thing to do is listen to classical music and enrich your mind.
Dvořák

Eh!?
If you want a little guy.
How about this?
ERGH
Teppei Koike.


フーん
B-Brother.
What was that!?
HMPH
It's okay if she doesn't like me!


Why not? Everything in life is experience.
Why you! You trying to make my little brother seduce a chicken!?
I don't like glasses.

BAKAWK
You really can't have just one female chicken, after all.
We've gathered lots of sexy males, so she'll start to want to whether she likes it or not.
I win this contest.
BAKAWK!
BAWK
BAWK
BAWK
BAWK
BAWK
BAWK
BAWK
OWOWOW!
Erk...

Don't insult me, White Leghorns! You could bring at least one long-tailed cock!
Izumi! You okay!?
PFF

WHAM

DAAAAAHH
Well?
Does it look like she'll lay an egg for you?

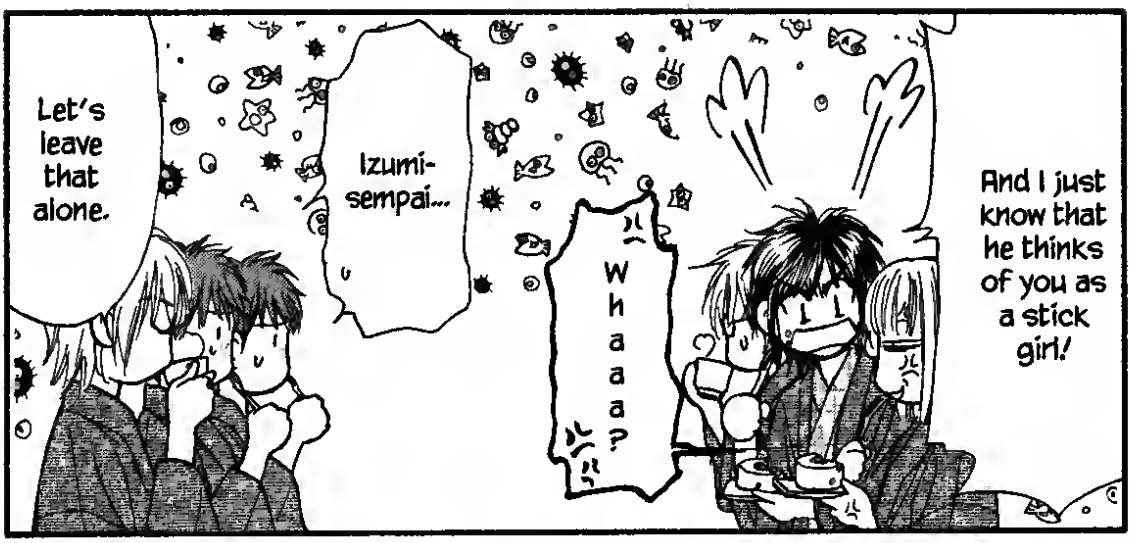
Well, good luck.
I see.
.....
GRR
GRR
.....

If it's the last thing I do, I'll make her lay an egg and eat it right in front of her.

What are you saying? I can't back down now!

I don't care anymore either. About the hot springs egg.
It's too much work.

We've come all the way to Kyushu. Going sightseeing and eating good food would be a more constructive use of our time.
Shouldn't you just give up?


Let's leave that alone.
Izumi-sempai...
Whaaaa?
And I just know that he thinks of you as a stick girl!

Ellsabetta

How's this!?

How much did you spend?
In this situation, I'll spare no expense!
That's a natural, isn't it?
HOP

I had him rushed over from Kôchi.
Now you have nothing to complain about!

His tail is so long.
I've never seen the real thing before.

I did it!
CLENCH

HUFF
But he's not what I thought he'd be.

GAH
GAH
GAH
GAH
GAH
GAH
Stay away from me!
Waahh!
I came all the way from Kôchi.
H-hey.
Wh-what the hell are you doing!?
I finally got them to lend him to me!
I've never even been pecked by my father...!!
Aahh! His precious tail!
I hate men who don't know when to quit.
.....
Sigh. I wish I'd gone out to eat good food with Natsuki-sempai and the others.
MUTTER
MUTTER
It's my turn, then.
If she doesn't like classical music, then what about beer?
PSSHH
It really is completely hopeless.
I wonder how many hot springs eggs he could buy with that much money.

Here.
WHIP
Buh!

Don't compare me with a cow.
Hey, don't lick the beer!
Wipe it off!
.....
H-Hana! You okay!?

We came to visit you at the warfront.
Hana-chan, did she lay an egg?

ズ
POKE
ブッ
BAKAWK!
ばっさ
FLAP
ばっさ
FLAP
Wh-what are you doing!? Hana, you—
Don't stick your fingers in there!
.....
What do you mean, maiden? You lay eggs like nobody's business!
I...I can't believe this! What are you doing? To an unwed maiden...
You've injured me!

Hey, Hana! Cut it out!
Well, you're not laying eggs, either!
Ow!
Ow!
KICK
KICK
KICK
You can't even lay eggs, human! The audacity!
Here, here. Help yourself.
Really. I just want to drink some Dom Pérignon and calm my nerves.
SMART
SMART
Why do you think I put up with her for so long!?
I did, too.
Why are you stopping me?
Who cares about stupid old hot springs eggs anymore?
Don't wipe your fingers on my *haori*!
CRASH

Who the hell do you think you are, dammit!!!?
It's not rosé.
This contest is over.
Yeah.
.....
Oda.

Hey, Izumi. That's not your chicken. You can't just...
It's a general practice to destroy hens that no longer lay eggs! Remember that!
I'll wring your neck!
BAKAWK!
We're humbling ourselves before a freakin' bird, and you get all cocky!
Brother, stop!
No fair! You stopped me earlier!
COUGH
COUGH
KILL!
Don't stop me! We're having local oyako-don for dinner tonight!
That's enough already!
That's terrible! You big men, ganging up on me!
GLINT
Now I'm mad.

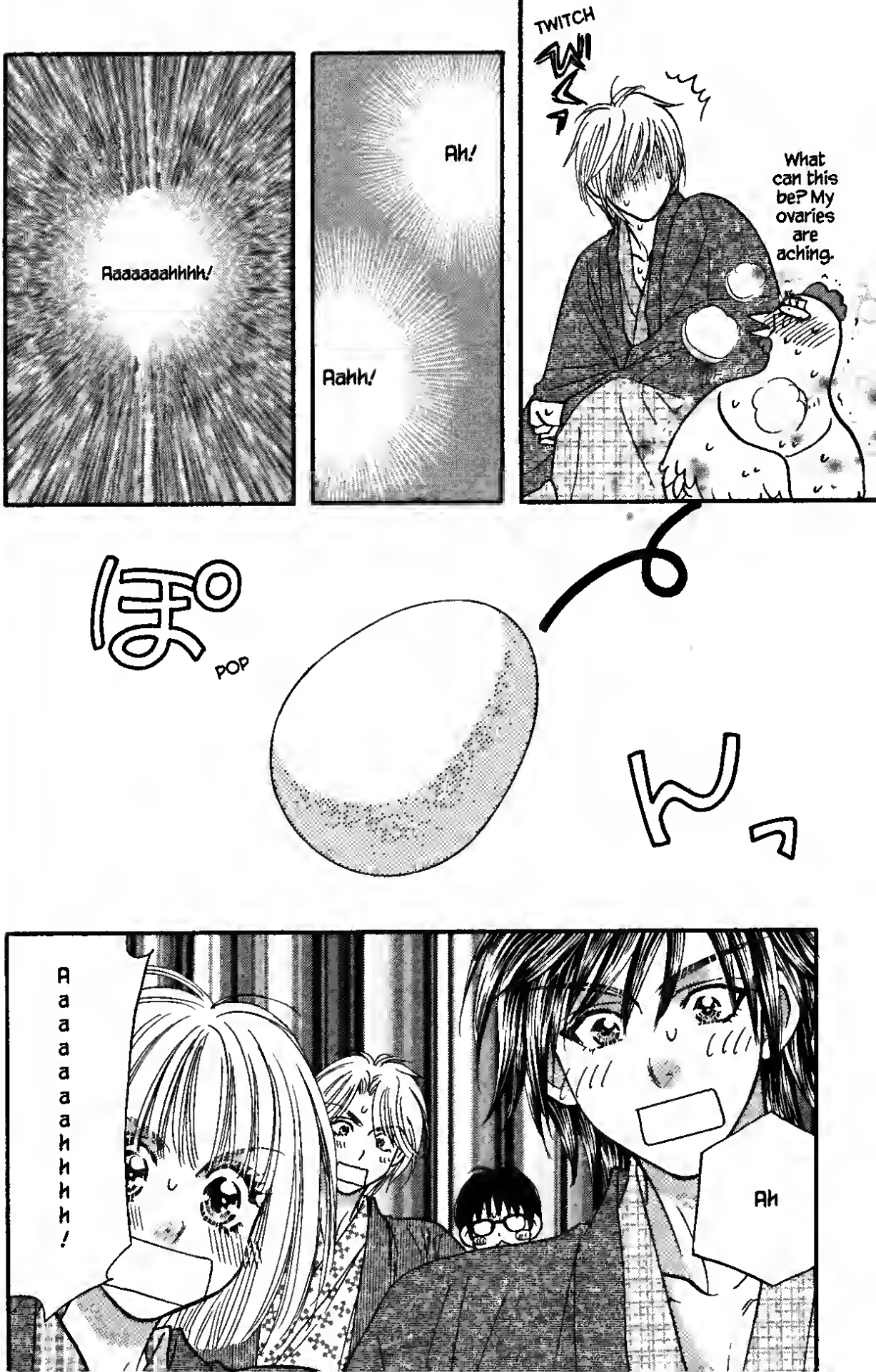
Izumi!
Suzuki!
Look
ou...
GAH

Owww...
Whew.
Gyaaaahh!
KICK
KICK
gh...
Itoigawa-sempai!
Takashi!

Izumi
Suzuki
Are you all right?

We're over here.
Notice the size.
He never learns...

POP
ぽっ
PO-POP
ぽっ
PO-POP
ぽっ
DA-DUN
ぽっ
DA-DUN
ぽっ

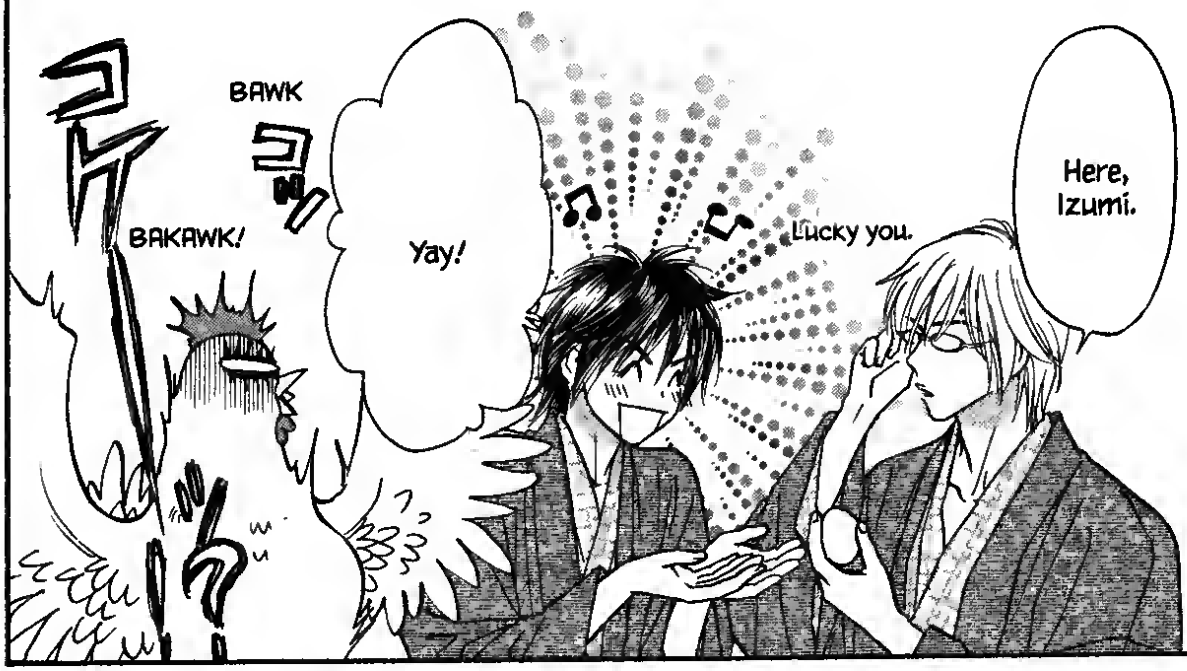

TWITCH
What can this be? My ovaries are aching.
Ah!
Aahh!
Aaaaaaahhhh!
ぽ
POP
ヘ
Aaaaaaahhhh!
Ah

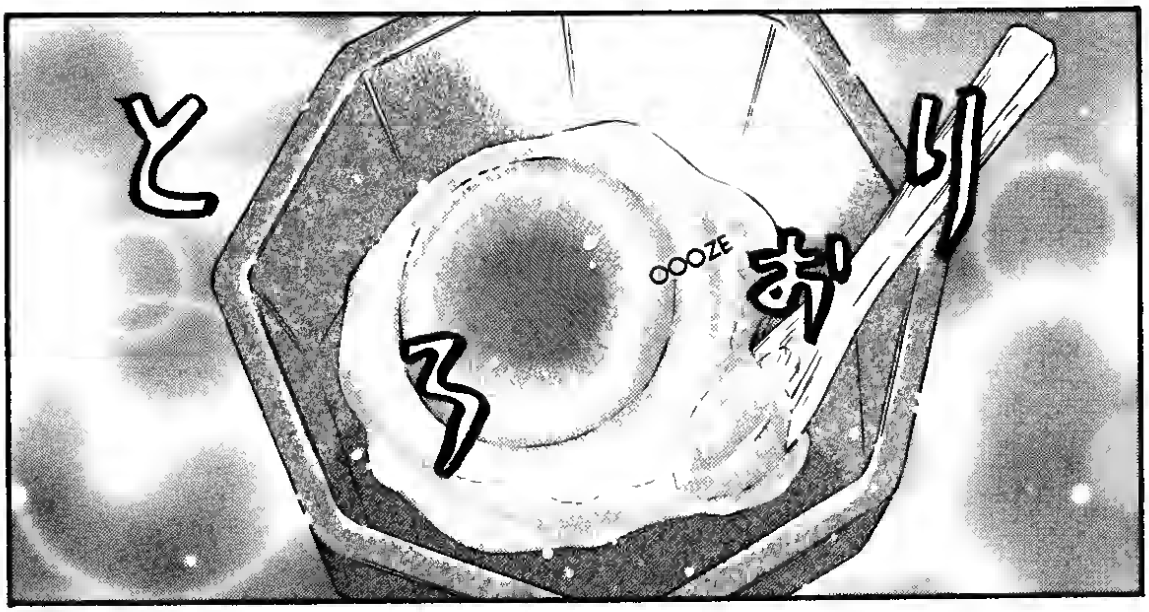
It's the elusive hot springs egg!
That was tough...
Oohh.
PHEW
HAA
HAA
She laid an egg!

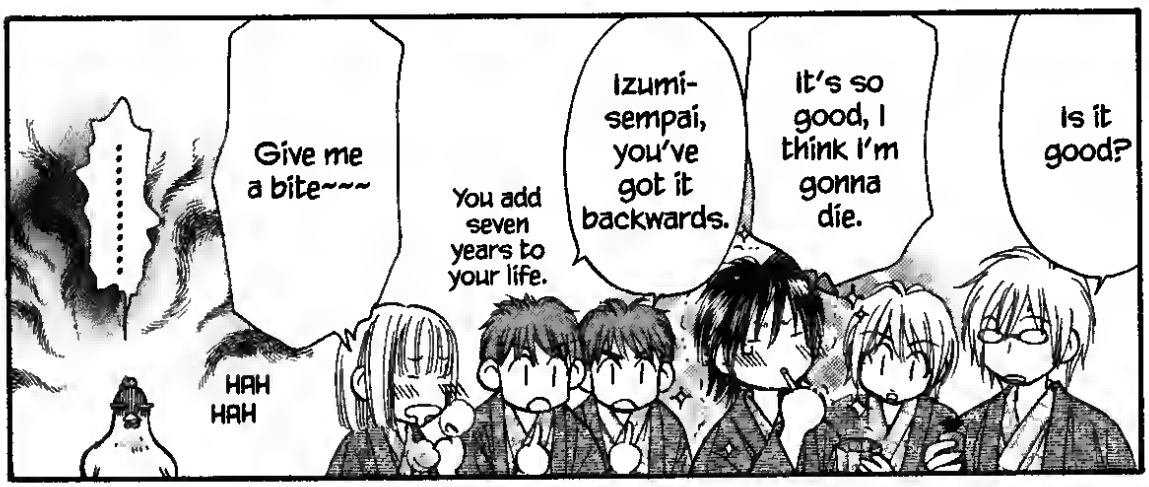
NOD
こくり

You're giving it away?
To me?

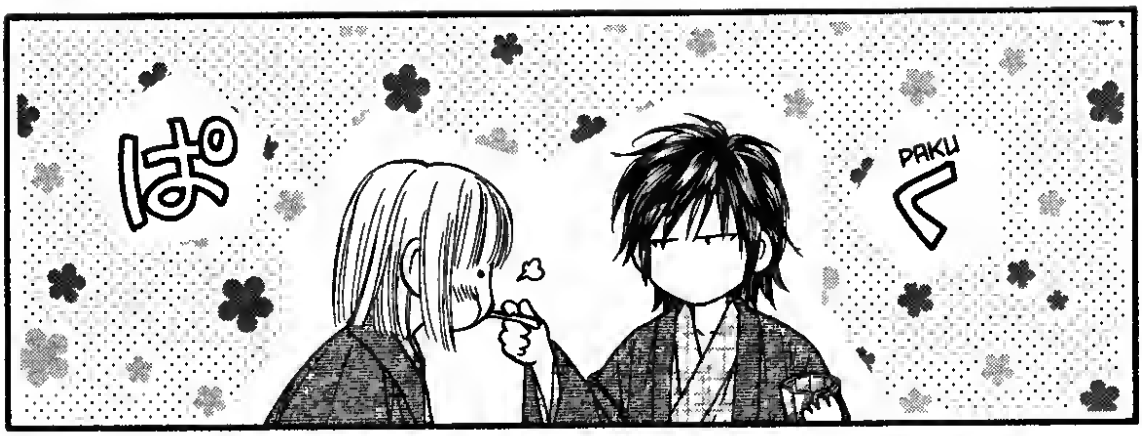
Thank you.


BAWK
BAKAWK!
Yay!
Lucky you.
Here, Izumi.

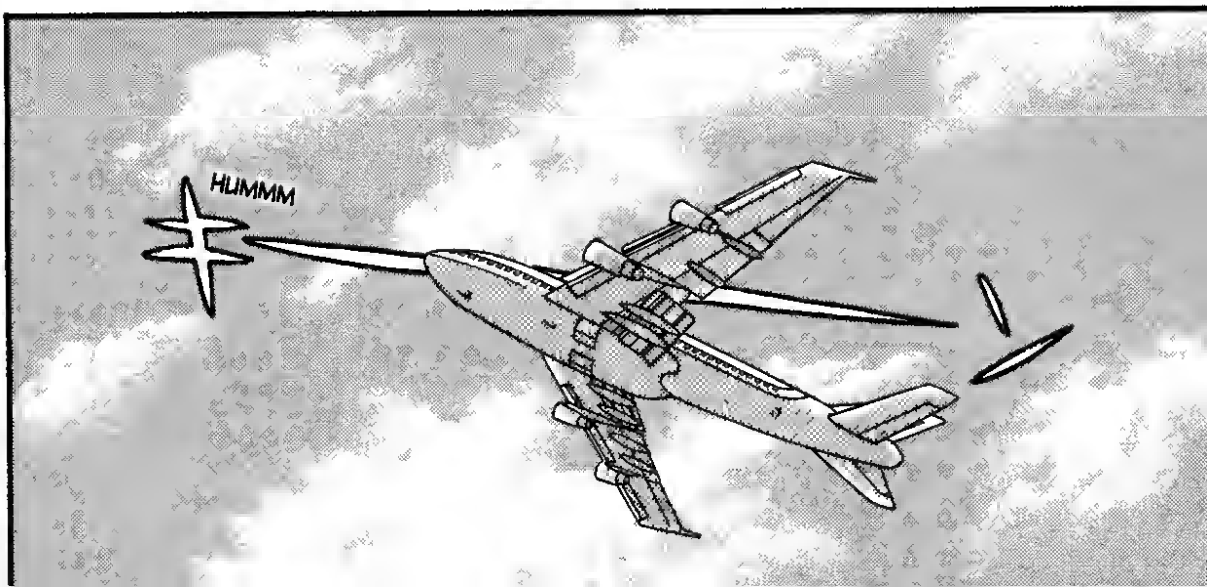

OOOZE


Is it good?
It's so good, I think I'm gonna die.
Izumi-sempai, you've got it backwards.
You add seven years to your life.
Give me a bite~~~
HAH HAH

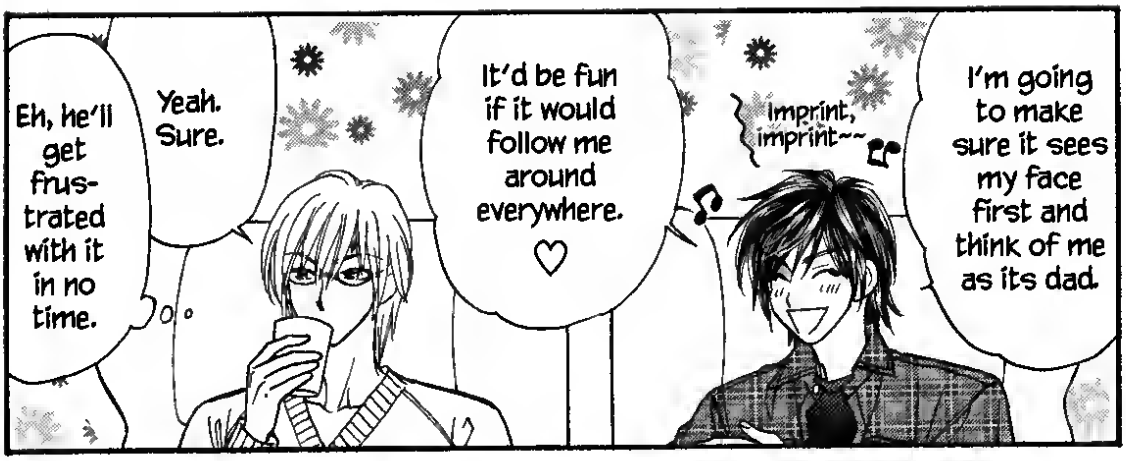
I got it, so it's mine.
You wiped bird crap on my clothes.
Eeehhh? Why not? Just a little.
It's not gonna kill you. You're so uptight for a guy.
DEJECTED
しょんぼり
You're hopeless.
Just one bite.

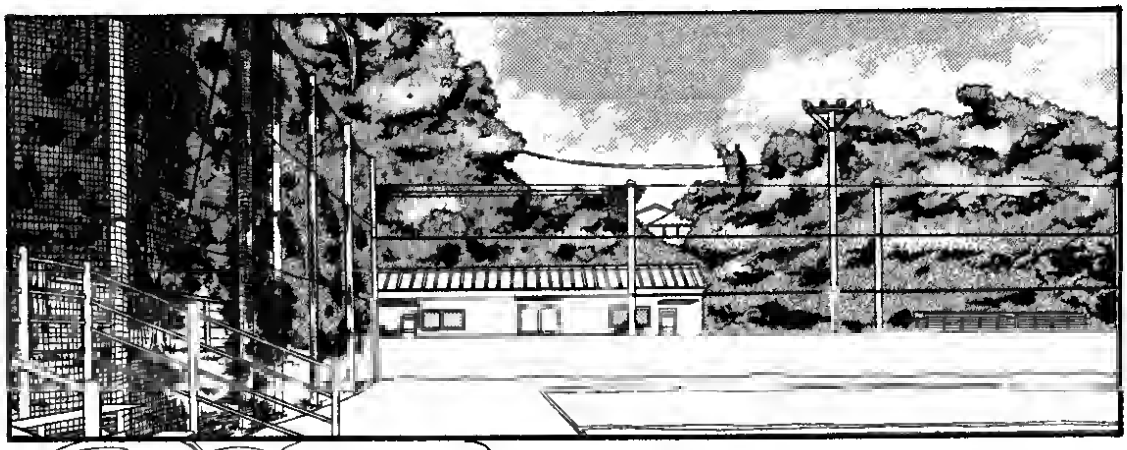

ぽ
PAKU
く

Yummm.
♡
Hana-chan, we have some chicken marinated in apple wine, too.
Men...!
Lucky.
The rest is mine.

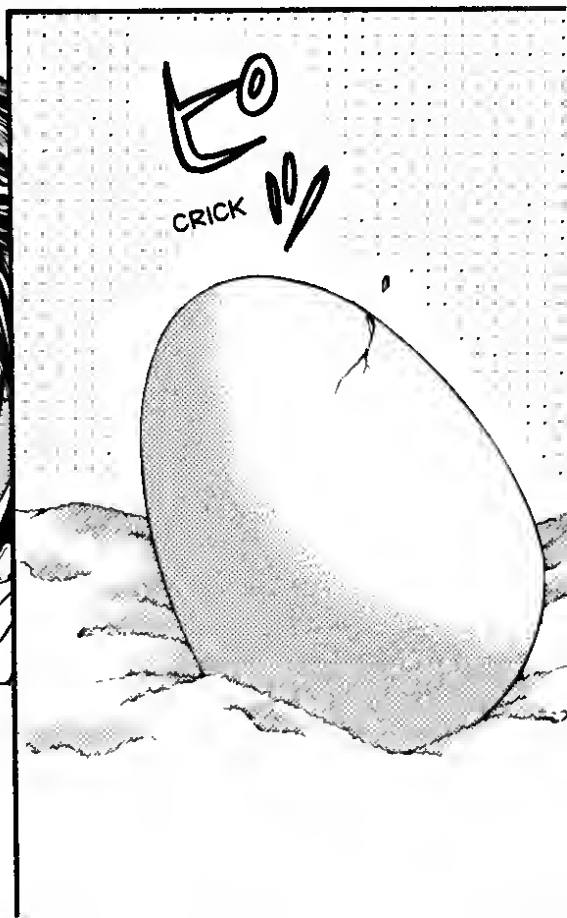

HUMMM

What are you doing, Izumi?
RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
SNORE
Mmmm~
Apparently the temperature at my side is just right.
I'm trying it out.
They had some fertilized eggs, so I bought one.
I thought maybe I could hatch it with my body heat.
...you plan on holding it all this time?
Here.
I'm hatching it, so of course it's going to be a cute little chick!
Forget about chickens.
What if you get one like that one?


Eh, he'll get frustrated with it in no time.
Yeah. Sure.
It'd be fun if it would follow me around everywhere. ♡
Imprint, imprint~~
I'm going to make sure it sees my face first and think of me as its dad.



It cracked!
You're kidding...
PECK
PECK


CRICK

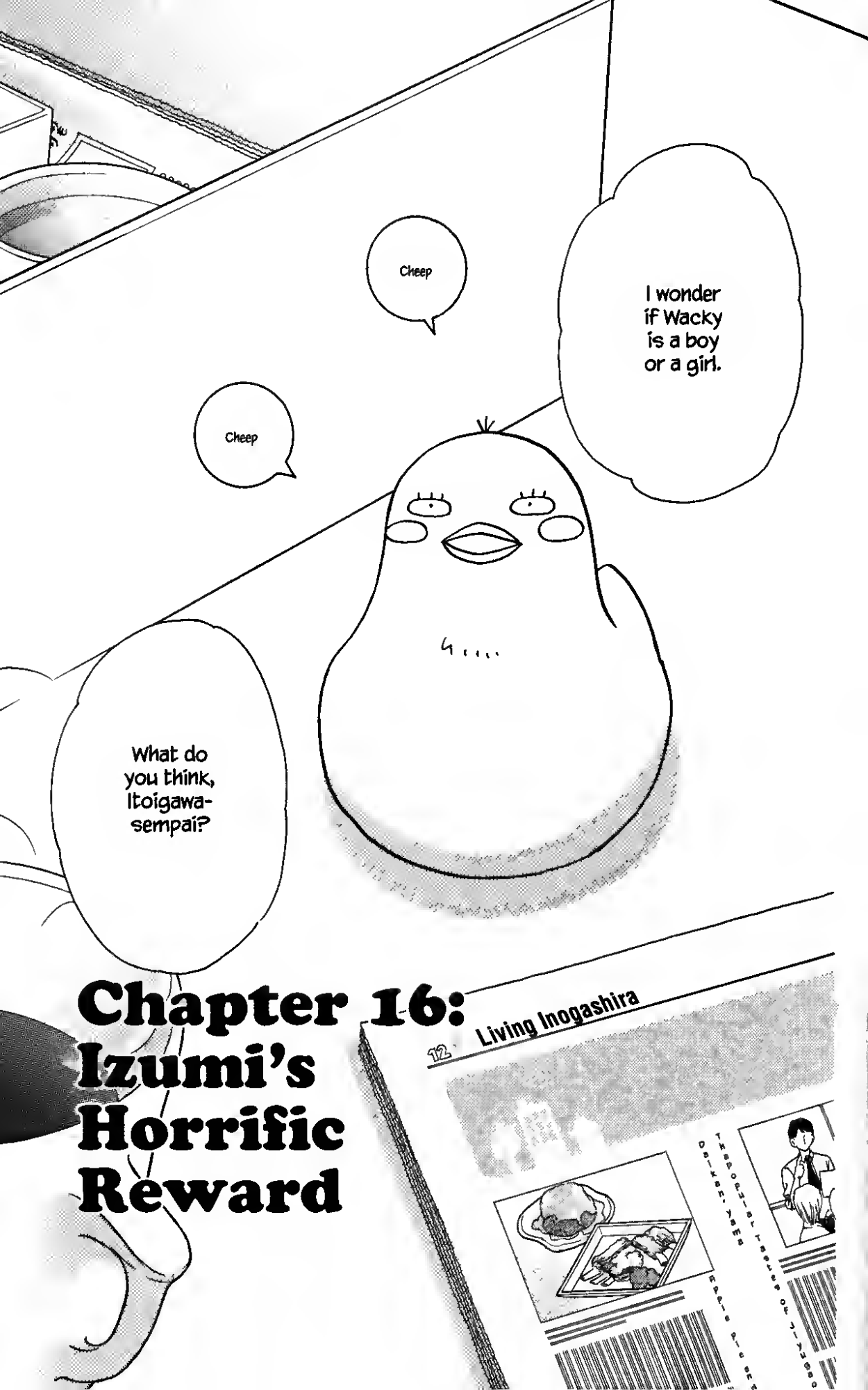
Cool! It's really hatching!
Come on, just a little more!
Your daddy's right here!
Keep going! Just like that!
WHAM
Ah! Sorry!
PRESS
He did have a really hard time with it.
It almost broke tons of times.
Ah ha ha
あはは
It was really something for him to make it this far, after all.
Izumi-sempai looks so happy!
That's it! One more time!
I told you not to give it a weird name!
BAAAAM
Izumi-sempai, has Wacky hatched yet?

Cheep
Cheep
Cheep
Ah.
Eh?

AAAAAAAAAHH!
Papa
Cheep
Papa
SHAKE
SHAKE
Don't follow me, Wacky! Your father's over there!
I-Izumi, I'm sorry! I didn't mean to...!
Shoo, shoo!
Cheep
Cheep

じ
WATER
わ
ッ
Izumi!!
DASH
TODDLE
TODDLE
TODDLE
Cheep
Cheep
Cheep
Cheep
Cheep
SUNK
じっと
Maybe I did something wrong.
We still couldn't get a match, but we did get a pet.

The End



Chapter 16: Izumi's Horrific Reward

Dunno.
You just don't get that I'm not an expert on baby chicks.
How to Raise Chicks
Hey, hey. Can I try to feed it the cabbage left over from my lunch?
Wacky will eat only from your hand, Itoigawa-sempai.
You're so lucky, Itoigawa-sempai.
Here, Wacky.
Cheep
Cheep
Chick Food

ALONE
ぽつん
No good, huh?
Here, Wacky.
And I saved it just for you.
STARE
じいい
It really is attached to you, isn't it, Takashi?
Hmph.
Hey.
Guys.
MUNCH
MUNCH
FLINCH
Aww.
GLOOM
じとり
H-here! We have some candied chestnuts to snack on. I'll make some tea.
From Maruwa!
I did.
You should have said something!
Oh, you're here, Izumi.
Papa.
Papa.

Do you want green tea? Or some genmai tea?
Takashi, Wacky's pooping.
H-hey! I told you, not on the desk!!
Whoa, it's huge.
Gyoku-ro.
GRRRRR
It's not his fault. Itoigawa-sempai is going to a lot of trouble taking care of Wacky.
Well, Izumi is the one that hatched the egg.
These candied chestnuts are yummy!
I was supposed to be its dad and take care of it!

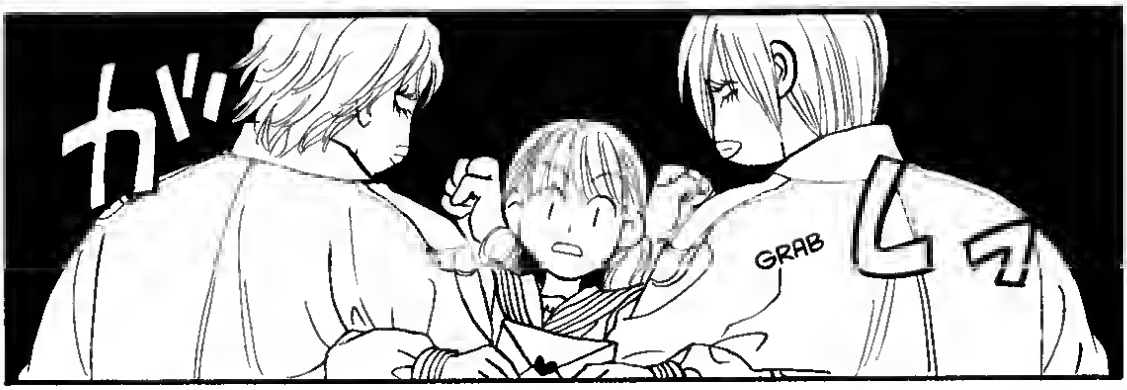
ERGH
What's that mean!? I'm not really—
If you're lonely because it doesn't care about you, why don't you get a girlfriend or something?
Ugh, you're not a little kid.
I-I'm sorry...
Eh?
A girlfriend for Izumi-sempai, huh?
I like that idea.
Itoigawa-sempai has Wacky, after all!
No, a chicken isn't...
You're a healthy high school boy, Izumi. You want a girlfriend or two, don't you?
Well, yeah.
But they're a pain.
Well, it would be tough on a guy.

RATTLE
KABOOM
REALLY!!?
Waaahh! Where did you people come from!?
SHU RU RU RU
How long've you been under the roof!?
KYAA
KYAA
KYAA

Waahh!
What are they thinki—
Today really sucked.
ガチャ
GLACK
Sheesh.
You've had a hard day!!

O-Oda-kun!
Um, here...!
SNAP
DAAAHH

You're all still here?
Here are some letters and presents from everyone.
You must have worked hard at club.


GRAB

WHOOOSH
AAAAAAAAAAAAHHH!
No stealing him for yourself!
Darn newbie. Try that again in ten years.
.....

.....
STEAM
ばか
STEAM
ばか
Boys' Restroom
Take care, Oda-kun!
We wish you luck!!
Hurray! Hurray!
Do your best!!
Boys' Restroom
Good work!
Please, have a moist towel!!
Hurrah! Hurrah!
Con-gratu-lations, Oda-sempai!
Cut it out!!
Kyaahh!
He's mad
Izumi-sempai, you really are popular with girls.
Wow.
They're all over you. Good for you.
It's like a feast!
KEEP OUT
KEEP
No Trespassing

Apparently they had an agreement for a long time so it was hard to get near him, but that's been lifted.
But why did they start that all of a sudden?
Must have been a number 2.
Good? They cheer me on every time I go to the bathroom! That's not *good*!
What's that supposed to mean?
SNAP
We have another bag.
You're sharp, Hana-chan.
Aww, it's all gone.
Since they don't know his personality.
So is it that he's even more popular because they've only been watching him from a distance?
You guys...
TEAR
RIP
Hmmm.
A man.
He says he wants a man.
Then, you want a man?
I'm done. Women are too much of a pain after all.

Ta-kashi...
You okay, Izumi?
He doesn't like it, so that's enough, guys.
Stop playing.
Yeah. It's easier to start a romance with something that doesn't happen every day.
That'll be perfect for getting a girlfriend.
Oh yeah. It's almost time for the *Bunkasai*.
Hold on, I'll get you some food.
Okay, okay, Wacky. Oh, I see. You're hungry, are you?
CHEERFUL
cheep
cheep
Chick Food
Suspension bridge love: Attraction for the opposite gender caused by a high-tension situation ♡
Hey, hey, hey!
I like it. *Suspension bridge love*, huh?
And Izumi-sempai hates ghosts, so it'll be super-heart-pounding!
It'll be dark and scary, so the cling-rate will go up!
Then how about the hockey club doing a *haunted house!?*
Ah ha ha ha

There is no way I will ever do a haunted house!
Like they said!!
Izumi has absolutely no talent for romance, so some drastic measures may be in order.
Right? Hana-chan.
That's right. His talent might awaken in spite of himself.
Eek!?
!?
Anyway, it doesn't matter who, so why not try dating someone?
For the heck of it.
How can you act like it doesn't matter!?
Well, somebody else's romance *doesn't* matter to me.
MUNCH
MUNCH

These candied chestnuts are *really* good ♡
GRRR
Where did you buy them?
I bought it, so don't eat it without my permission!
Ah!
BAH
Cheep
Cheep
Cheep
Cheep TURN
This isn't PoXXmon.
I'll catch a girlfriend with *suspension bridge love!*
On second thought, I'll do it. A *haunted house.*
Meanie!
H-hey, Izumi.
In that case, let's borrow the classroom in the old school building where they say *there's the ghost of a female teacher who was killed in an accident on her 30th birthday, after failing her 100th miai.*
Since it already has a story.
Oh, that's perfect!
Agreed ♡
Eh...?

GULP...

I can't see ghosts, so it doesn't matter to me.
Dunno. But I hear stories that people have seen her from time to time.
It's kind of rash, but it really is exciting.
H...
Hey. There's not really a ghost here, is there?
...but
This place really is kind of...
I know!
I qu—
It's too late to say you quit now.
You're the one who said you're doing it, Izumi.

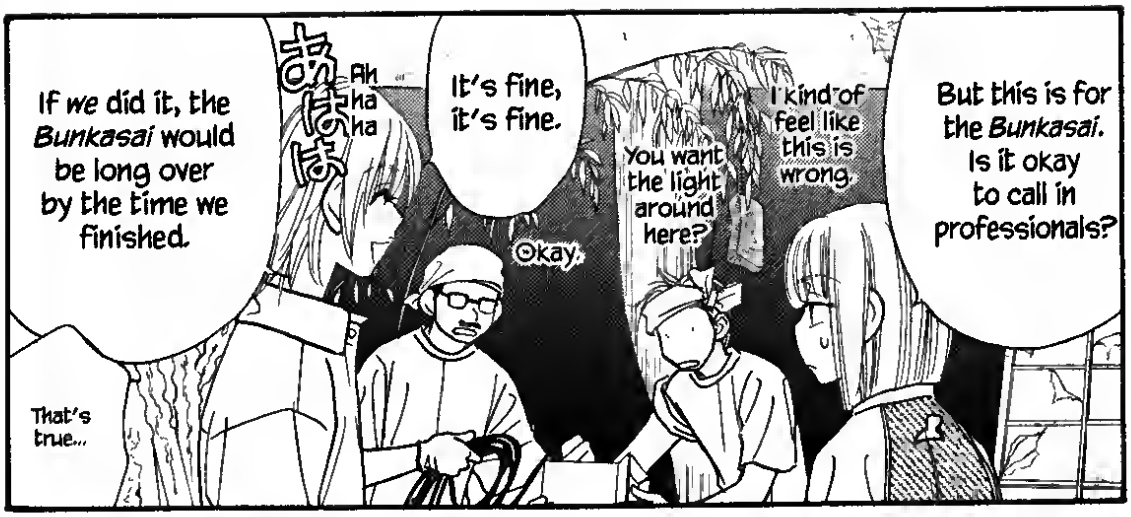
Eh...?
CHILL
ゾクッ
SPLAT
ぺちょっ
Gyaaahhh!
Izumi-sempai, what's wroooooong~~?
Don't experiment on people like that!
Konnyaku is pretty effective.
SPROING
Yay! It worked. ♡

THUD
ぱたり…

Maybe we should have the girls keep just watching from a distance after all.
I feel like that way their dreams won't be shattered.
Waahh! Hang in there, Izumi!

I'm worried about how this will play out.
Will Izumi-sempai really be okay doing a haunted house?

I think if Hana-chan were to tell him to stop trying to get a girlfriend, he'd stop right away.
Mm-hm.
Mm-hm.
うん
うん
It's true.
?

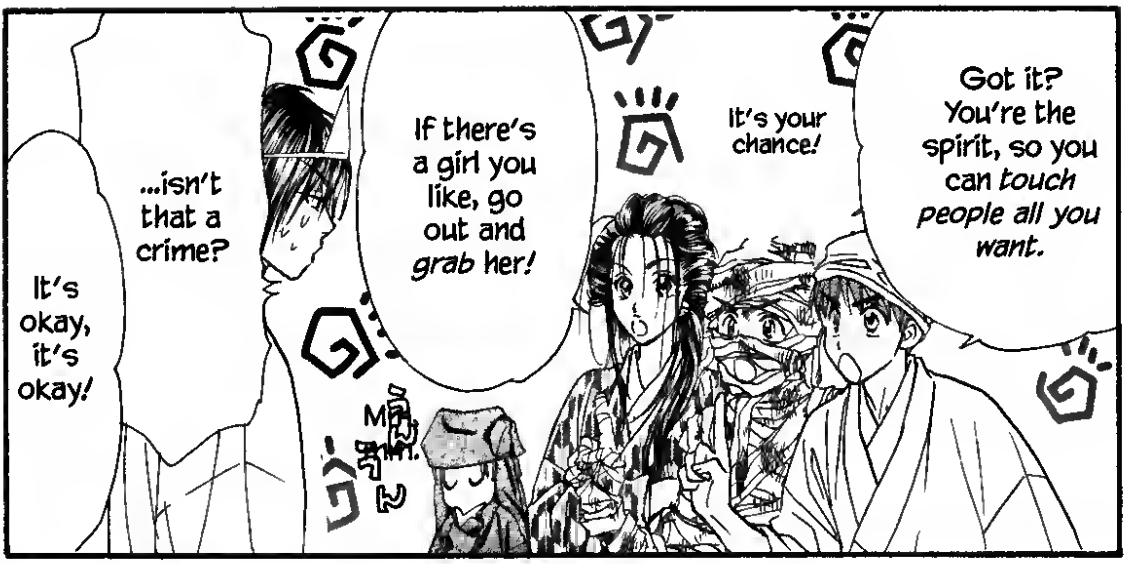

But this is for the *Bunkasai*. Is it okay to call in professionals?
I kind of feel like this is wrong.
You want the light around here?
Okay.
It's fine, it's fine.
Ah ha ha
If we did it, the *Bunkasai* would be long over by the time we finished.
That's true...

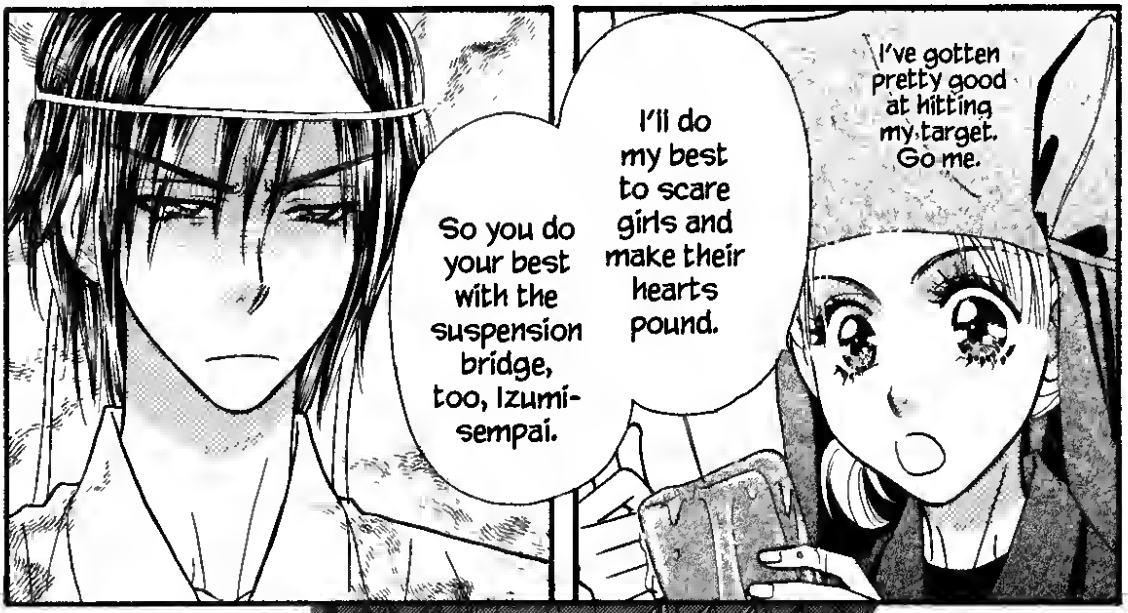
Meirin Festival

Field Hockey Haunted House
KYAA
きゃあ
KYAA
きゃあ

Wow, that's a long line of girls.
It's quite a sight...
Hana-chan, how does it look out there?
Are there lots of girls?

There are more girls there than at a swim meet with an all-girl audience.
Izumi-sempai, is your heart pounding?
I feel like my heart'll come out of my nose.
L-like crazy.
Good, good.
That's a good thing.
And there are lots of girls from other schools.
C-can we turn on the lights...?
TWITCH
TWITCH
Why would you light up a haunted house?
Seems like it's gotten around that Izumi wants a girlfriend.
The girls' information network is really something.


Got it? You're the spirit, so you can *touch* people all you want.
It's your chance!
If there's a girl you like, go out and *grab* her!
...isn't that a crime?
It's okay, it's okay!

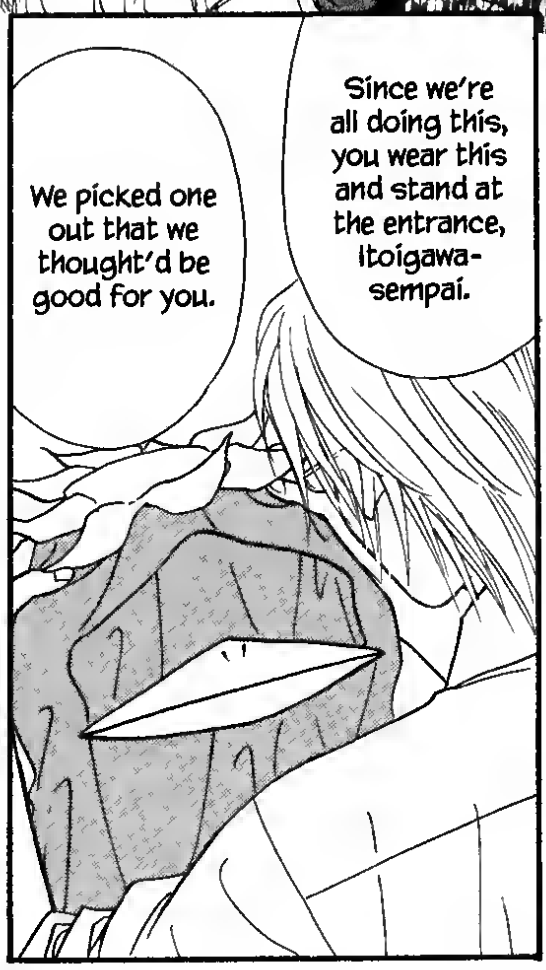

I've gotten pretty good at hitting my target. Go me.
I'll do my best to scare girls and make their hearts pound.
So you do your best with the suspension bridge, too, Izumi-sempai.

I don't need your help. I can get a girlfriend myself!
Keh.
SPLAT
His heart

Ah, Itoigawa-sempai.
Hey, we're gonna get started soon.
Is everybody ready?
.....
.....
Ticks me off!!
I'm trying to help you out here! What's with the attitude!?

A kappa...?
No, I...

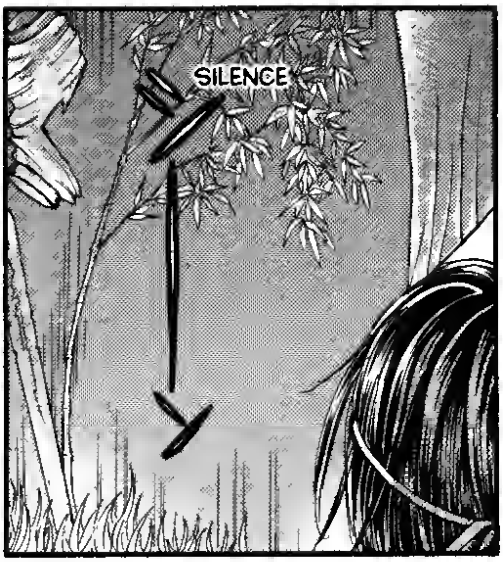
There!
CLAP
Takashi.


We picked one out that we thought'd be good for you.
Since we're all doing this, you wear this and stand at the entrance, Itoigawa-sempai.

Welcome~~~
JUMP!
SLIIIIIIME
Augh, man, he makes me mad!
Here I am taking precious sleeping time to help this guy out.
GRRR
GRRR
GRRR
Just a little.
I don't know what they all see in him.
He really is an arrogant jerk.
Oh no. I'm getting sleepy.
I always get sleepy when it's dark.
SPLAT

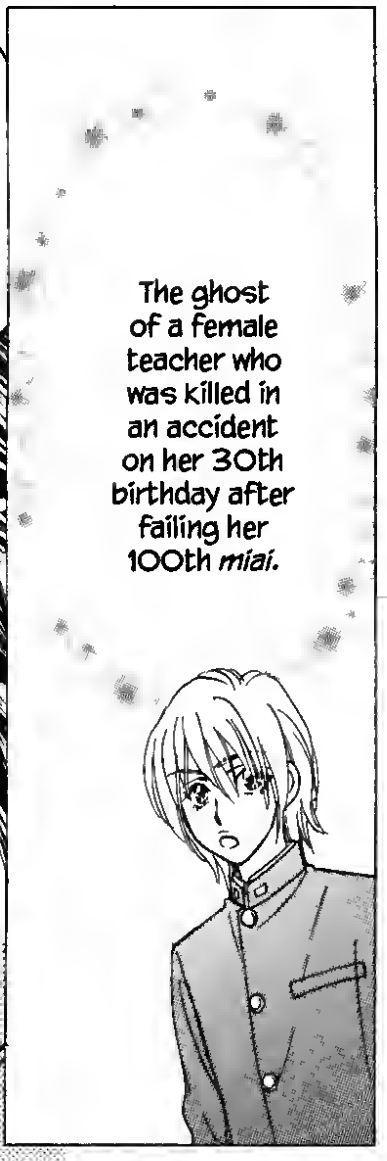
I don't like that Hana!
GRR ムカ
GRR ムカ
GRR ムカ
ムカ GRR
She kinda makes me mad.
And the other day, she...
SNAP
ピ
ZZZZZ
GYAAAAAH-H
Eh...?
SNAP
CRACK
ピキ

Come to think of it, before she hit me with the konnyaku that last time, for a second...
I felt like there was *something*...
DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
Wh
What were those sounds?


SILENCE

Two~~~
One~~~

There's really?
It can't be.
GULP...


The ghost of a female teacher who was killed in an accident on her 30th birthday after failing her 100th *miai*.

JUMP
GYAAAAHHH!
Three~~
D-dammit, Natsuki! Aren't you scaring the wrong person!?
Kyaaaahh!
キャー
Gotcha!
Did your heart pound?
Noises?
And making weird noises!?
My soul was coming out of my mouth for a second!!
Ah, oh, sorry.
TREMBLE
Uh!
Um!
Kyaah!
キャー
Izumi Oda-sama
SCRITCH SCRITCH
Oh.
Thanks.
P-p-p-please, read this!
Go for it, Yuri-chan!

Emi-chan, I gave it to him!
You're so lucky, Yuri-chan!
I mean, he touched my shoulders!
.....
Kya!
Kya!
Y'know, girls
Unlike someone I know.
really can be cute.
All right! Now I'm a little more optimistic.
It might be good to really get a girlfriend.
I am in my second year of high school already!
Well, good luck!
Haaaaatefullllll creeeeeatuuuuuures~
Kyaaaa! ♡ Ghost ♡

.....
Well, we were wondering about your feet. ♡
COUGH
Kyaaaaaaah! I'm scaaaaaared. ♡ ♡
Hey!
Let g...
Oh, no more! I'm so scared of all the ghosts. ♡
Rope, rope.
TUG
TUG
TUG
Momoko's gonna cry!
GRAB
GRAB
Ooh ♡
Kyaaahh!
WAAAAAAHHH!

Not fair!
Hey, you! Get away from him!
But Momoko is so cute that Oda-kun hugged her.
Shut up, cow!
What did you call me!?
Kyaaaa ♡ I touched him!
PLUCK
PLUCK
TOUCH
Ow!
Ow!
TOUCH
Ow!
TOUCH
Oooohhh! I got his hair. ♡
Me too, me too!
It's Izumi-kun!
Hey, what are you doing? That's mine!
EEP
EEEP
EEP
Stop pulling! I got it first!

That was great back there, wasn't it?
Well? You think you can fall in love?
It was you!? Why'd you do that!
SPLURCH
3-B
SNAP
CRACK
SNAP
These sounds...
Sounds?
CHILL
DRIFT

So, what's this...?
We couldn't get permission to light fires in the classroom, so no.
Did we use real fire to make fireballs?
H-hey.
.....

.....
Aahh!
DAAAAAAHHH
Wai.../ I-I can't move!!
TURN
Eep.
We found Oda-sempai!
Ah! There he is!
It's Oda-kun!

キャ
Kyaaaaahhh!
少少
It's him! It's really him!
Oda-sempai, I love you!
DO
DOH

Help me!!

Now I have no more regrets.
I'm so happy.
For the first time ever, I've been held by a man.
Eh?
J-just a...
Oda-sempai, I love you!
Please love me, too! Kyaaaa! ♡ ♡
DO
DOH
SCRAMBLE
Thank you...
Don't run away without me!!
Wait...!

I'm done for.
Dad, Mom, please forgive me for dying before you.
SPLAT

Shut.
Up.
ZZZZZZZZZ
Yes, ma'am...

Huh? Why are there so many candied chestnuts?
It's yours, Hana. You can eat all of it.
Eh. ♡
Cheep.
Cheep.
What is this, all of a sudden?
You took it from me the other day.
It's nothing.
It's just that there was lots of it, so I bought a bunch.

But the suspension bridge plan was a failure, huh?
I guess we couldn't expect it to go that well.
I was kind of asleep.
Yay! Thank you so much, Izumi-sempai!
Here, you can have one!
Don't eat it all at once.
But I'm sorry I couldn't help you.
It seems I missed a lot.
Living girls are scarier than ghosts!!
?
I don't need a girl-friend right now!
Maybe you were tired because you're not used to taking care of Wacky?
We took pictures, so I'll give you copies once they're printed.
Cheep.
Cheep.
Did I fall asleep like Suzuki?
Partway through the Bunkasai, I don't remember anything that happened after.

You're spilling, you're spilling!
Aahh, Izumi!
What was that!?
BAAAAM
Don't you think taking care of Izumi-sempai is harder than taking care of Wacky?
Mm-hm.
I'm always telling you to use scissors so you don't get it all over the place!
I know, I know.
See, there's another one over there.
KWAH!
Wacky.
HOP
ちょんっ
As it turned out, Wacky is female.
Wacky!?
cheep
ピヨピヨピヨ
Enemy...!!
.....

The End

Hockey Club Character Profile No.1

Hana Suzuki

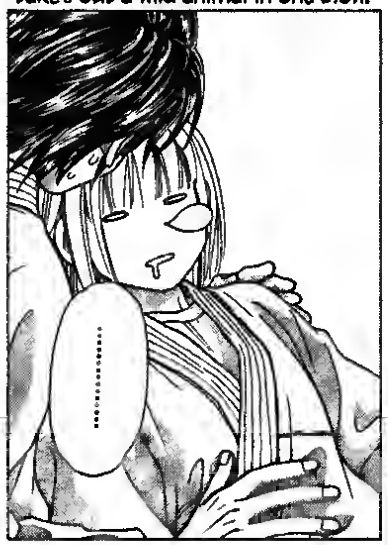
Birthday	May 5th
Blood type	O
Height	5'3"
Hobbies	Sleeping, eating
Special skill	Can go to the bathroom while asleep
Favorite food	Anything yummy
Least favorite food	Anything not yummy
Favorite subject	Cooking
Least favorite subjects	Math, science
Favorite type of guy	None in particular
Other (notes)	Been putting on weight recently

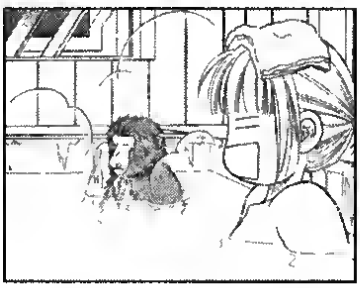
Motto

Good things come to those who sleep!

Famous Scene Selections

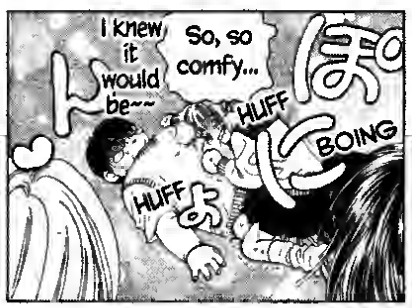
▼ Aim deep, and strike!!
Sleeping power awakens...! She even takes out a wild animal in one blow!





▲ She's so flat that even a monkey laughs at her....

▲ More interested in food than the opposite sex. More interested in sleep than food.
Hana lives for sleep.



◀ The stomach pillow to which Hana was once a slave, Ôta the Younger. ♥

Hockey Club Character Profile No.2

Izumi Oda

Birthday	August 10th
Blood type	O
Height	5'11"
Hobbies	Traveling, hot springs, collecting strange things
Special skill	Can turn his eyelids inside out.
Favorite food	Meat
Least favorite food	Doesn't really have one, but would hate to get fat eating food that tastes bad!
Favorite subject	Geography, English, math
Least favorite subjects	Current events
Favorite type of girl	Neat, tidy, shy, cute girls
Other (notes)	His stomach makes loud noises

Motto

I am the law!

Famous Scene Selections

▼In front of Hana, he will show expressions like these.♥

▲ Self-proclaimed "Izumi's fiancée," Tamako is easily possessed by spirits. Even Izumi is overwhelmed....

◀ Frightened Izumi-kun. He sees the ghost's true identity, and it's...a gecko.

▲ Leave leadership to him!... But Izumi is always missing something.

Hockey Club Character Profile No.3

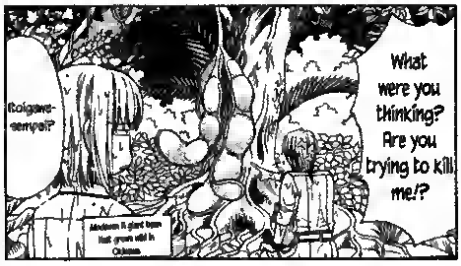
Takashi Itoigawa

Birthday	January 1st
Blood type	A
Height	6'1"
Hobbies	Reading, watching movies, hot springs
Special skills	Japanese archery, can tie a cherry stem in a knot in his mouth
Favorite food	Meat, fried oysters
Least favorite food	Fish with big scales from ponds or bogs.
Favorite subject	World history, Japanese history, English
Least favorite subjects	Art
Favorite type of girl	Yamato Nadeshiko
Other (notes)	Is liked by animals

Motto

Do what you can, when you can!!

Famous Scene Selections



▲ He's funnier without his glasses. (Eyesight: right 0.02, left 0.03) *right 20/1000, left 20/1500

◀ Because he plays the part of Izumi's *jiya*, he makes dad jokes in spite of himself.

▲ Hana's arch-nemesis, Takashi Itoigawa! He's a man of firm character, but he also has a big attitude.

◀ Be it a habu snake or Wacky the chick... he has a connection to animals.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

JAL, page 10

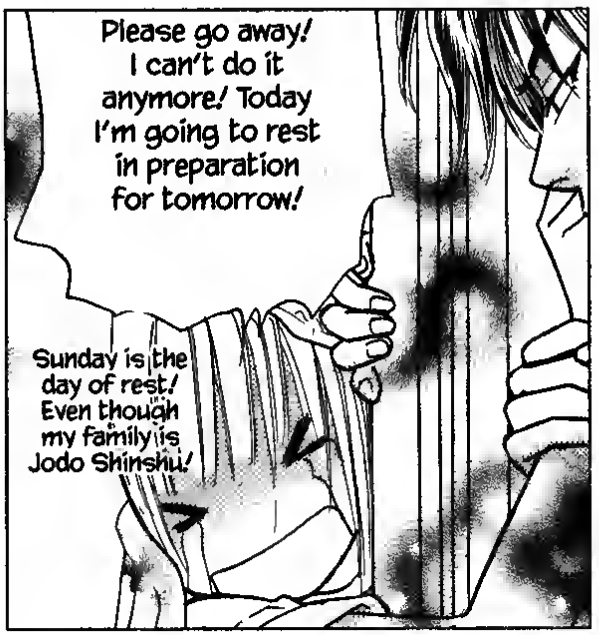
JAL is a common abbreviation for Japan Airlines.

Yôkan, page 24

A jellied sweet made from bean paste.

Jodo Shinshu, page 25

The most common religions in Japan are Shinto and Buddhism, and Jodo Shinshu is considered the most widely practiced sect of Buddhism in Japan. Sunday being the day of rest is a Christian practice, and so would not apply to Hana's family's beliefs.


Please go away! I can't do it anymore! Today I'm going to rest in preparation for tomorrow!
Sunday is the day of rest! Even though my family is Jodo Shinshu!

Onigiri, page 33

Kind of like the peanut butter and jelly sandwich of Japan. *Onigiri* literally means "molded" and refers to the fact that this dish is made by molding rice into an oval or triangle shape. Put a salty or sour ingredient in the middle, like a pickled plum or salted salmon, wrap some seaweed around it, and you have a very popular Japanese snack.

Running with bread in your mouth, page 54

Further proof that Izumi is not only a little nuts, but that he watches too much TV. It's an old anime cliché: The show would begin with a character running late to school, holding toast in his mouth because he didn't have time to eat breakfast. Then the character inevitably bumps into someone special, which is usually the start of something big enough to make a whole TV series about.

What are you saying? Everyone knows you crash into her from around the corner with bread in your mouth!
Will this really work?

Hana's awkward request, page 69

In Japanese, there are several levels of language that indicate politeness. Hana sounds so awkward because she's trying to use a polite form of the language, but her manners are so unpracticed that she's struggling.

A guy?, page 69

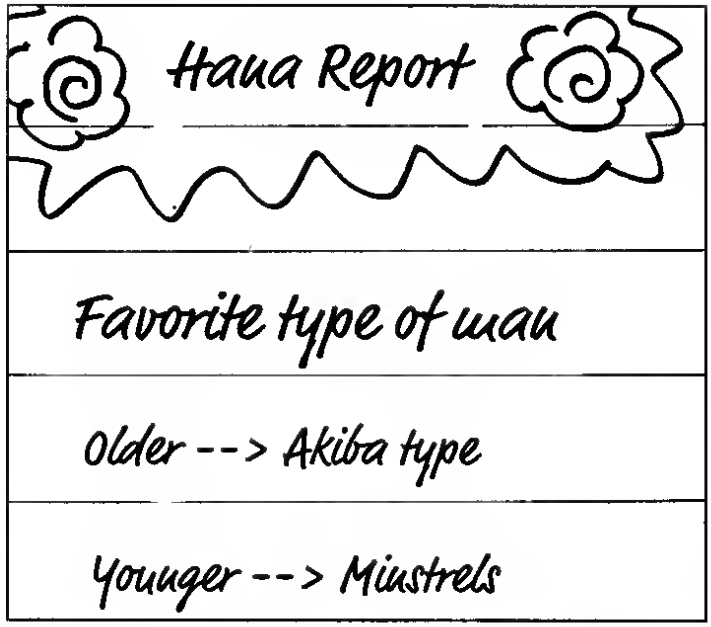
Hana wonders if Masumi is actually a guy, because Masumi used the masculine first-person pronoun *boku* in referring to herself.

Masumi-oneesama, page 70

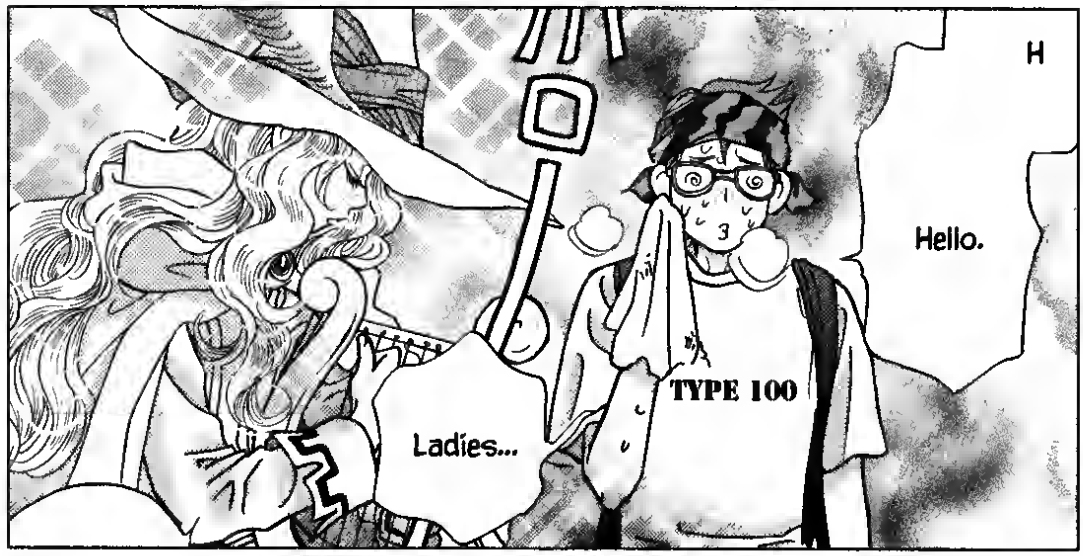
"Oneesama" is a very respectful way of referring to your older sister, or someone you respect like an older sister.

Weighs a ton/Stays at home, page 74

Hana first writes "weighs a ton," then crosses it out and replaces it with "stays at home." She made a mistake in writing down the kanji, so that her first attempt meant something more like "prone to chubbiness."



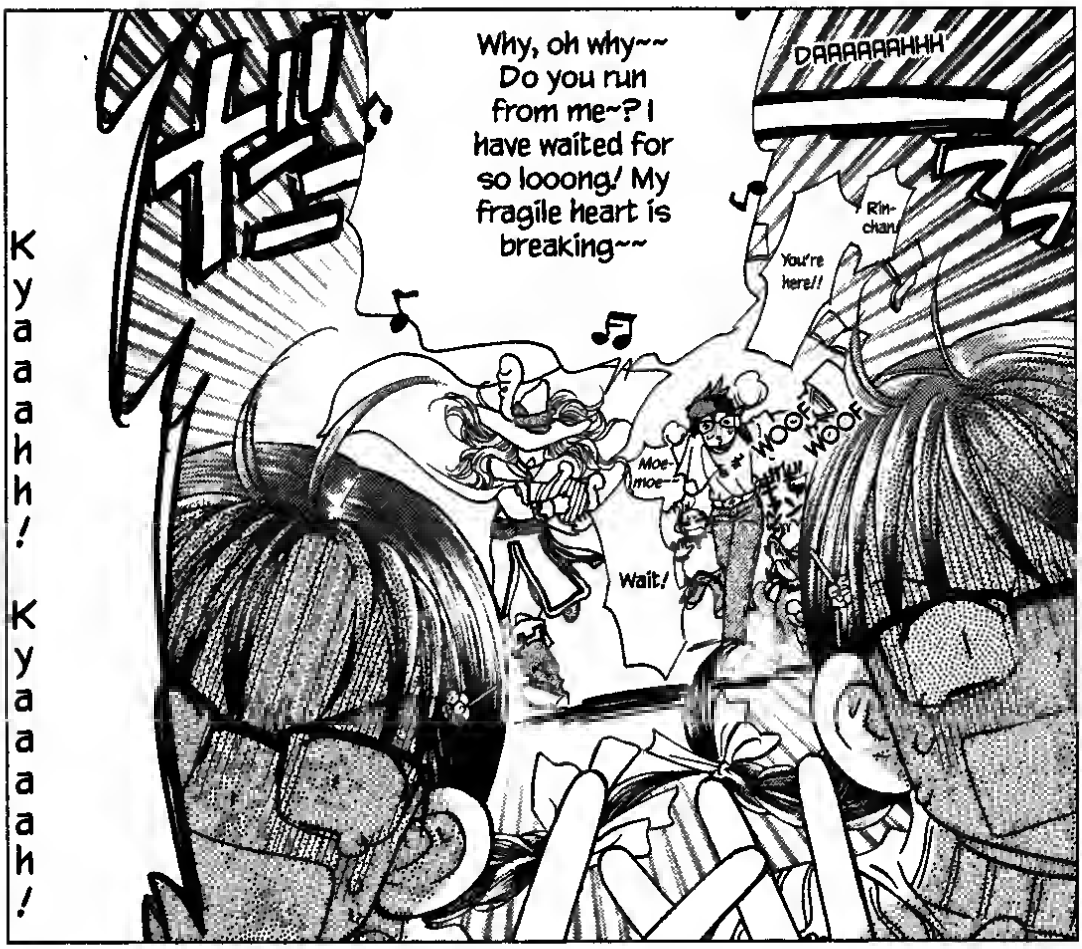
Akiba type, page 74
Akiba is short for Akihabara, a district in Tokyo known for selling lots of computer and electronic goods, but also for selling a lot of anime and *otaku* goods. An "Akiba type" is the kind of guy who would frequent Akihabara—in other words, the ultimate fanboy.



Type 100, page 82
Type 100 is a type of Gundam piloted by Char Aznoble, the most infamous villain in the history of the Gundam series.

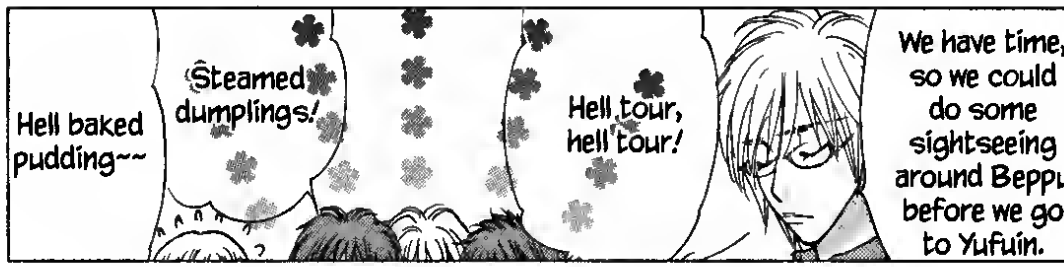
Moe moe, page 83

Moe is a phrase used by fanboys to describe the type of character from an anime or video game that they have a particular attraction to. *Moe moe* is an emphatic way of saying that someone is just his type.



Hell tour, page 90

Beppu, where the Hockey Club is currently visiting, is the hot spring capital of Japan and has nine major geothermal hot spots, known as the "nine hells of Beppu" probably because they're so hot. If you toured them all, you would be going on a "hell tour."


Hell baked pudding~~
Steamed dumplings!
Hell tour, hell tour!
We have time, so we could do some sightseeing around Beppu before we go to Yufuin.

Steamed dumplings, hell-baked pudding, and hot springs egg, page 90

The water in the hot springs at Beppu is so hot it is used to cook various delicacies, either with the steam or by boiling. In the case of the pudding, it is put in a covered pan and cooked.

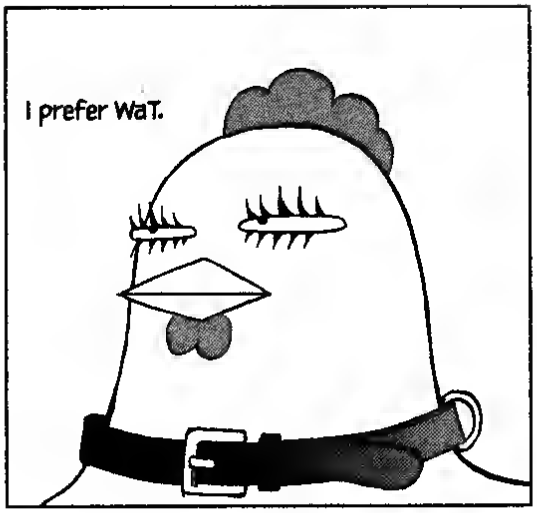
Local oyako-don ♡
Me too. ♡
Ah! Guys!
I'm interested in this roll cake!
This nama tofu looks good.
Then, we're off to see the sights. Good luck.
Bonus: Yufuin, Beppu

Nama tofu and *oyako-don*, page 98

Nama tofu is fresh, cold tofu. *Oyako* literally means "parent and child," and *oyako-don* gets its name from having chicken (the parent) and egg (the child) in a bowl of rice.

WaT, page 101

WaT stands for "Wentz and Teppei." They are the Japanese pop duo Eiji Wentz and Teppei Koike. Clearly, Elisabetta has a crush on Koike-san, who is about 5'6".



Natural monument, page 106

The rooster that Izumi had brought over is so rare and beautiful that it is protected by law as a natural monument or treasure.

Haori, page 110

A short, kimono-like coat worn over a long kimono.

Dom Pérignon, page 110

A very expensive brand of champagne.

Maruwa, page 129

Maruwa is a high-class supermarket chain in southern Japan.

H-here! We have some candied chestnuts to snack on. I'll make some tea.
From Maruwa!
I did.
You should have said something!
Oh, you're here, Izumi.
Papa.
Papa.

Bunkasai, page 137

A *bunkasai*, or culture festival, is held every year by schools in Japan. Students all work together to create attractions, put on plays, and/or sell food.

PoXXmon, page 139

It's a common practice in Japanese editions of manga to partially censor the titles of copyrighted material. You can probably guess what "PoXXmon" stands for!

Miai, page 139

A *miai* is a formal interview to arrange a marriage, during which the man and woman in question decide whether or not the other party would be a suitable spouse. Usually, the man and woman in question have not met before, but extensive research has been done on both sides.

Konnyaku, page 142

Jelly made from a pressed vegetable.

Kappa, page 148

A *kappa* is a Japanese water demon that lurks in rivers and lakes, performing all sorts of misdeeds ranging from looking up women's kimonos to eating children.

Wondering about your feet, page 154

According to Japanese legend, ghosts don't have feet.

Yamato Nadeshiko, page 169

The term *yamato nadeshiko*, the name of the Japanese pink flower, has come to refer to a woman who displays all the traditional feminine virtues of old Japan.

Jîya, page 169

A jîya is an elderly servant, kind of like a nanny but male.